

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

First work
Extracts from
The Times
winning novel
Ascent of woman
Female challenge
to the
mountain men
Dust to dust
Amid the ruins
of Mexico's
lost civilization
Wimbledon warm-up
Rex Bellamy reports
on the Eastbourne
women's tournament

Portfolio

There were two winners in The Times Portfolio Competition yesterday. Mr Roger North of Twickenham, Middlesex and Mr Terry Overill of Liverpool each received £2,000 because the prize was not won on Wednesday Portfolio list, page 18, how to play, information service, back page.

Pound dips on news of US growth

The dollar closed 2.7 cents up at \$1.292 against the pound in London and was also stronger in New York. It was boosted by the news of stronger-than-expected US growth in the second quarter.

Police ring Stonehenge

Police officers in Wiltshire set up check points for 20 miles around Stonehenge yesterday to prevent about 1,000 hippies from converging on the ancient monument to celebrate today's summer solstice. All police leave in the county was stopped.

Oslo's Philby

Norwegian spy Arne Treholt, jailed for the maximum 20 years for passing secrets to Russia and Iraq, ranked with Kim Philby as an espionage success, according to British security experts.

Words worth

Mrs Susan Kay has been awarded the £12,500 Betty Trask award for an historical romance which was left under her bed for 16 years after she finished writing it.

Electric shop

A network of electronic terminals are to be installed in 1,000 shops, to make shopping by cheque or credit card easier.

Double Gold

Children made all the running to win the Gold Cup for the second year in succession at Royal Ascot. Longboat finished second and Destroyer third.

Financial roller

Paris 10,000 FF

Financial roller

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Financial roller

Paris 10,000 FF

Lawson censures Bank on Johnson Matthey collapse

● The Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday censured the Bank of England for failing to act promptly to avert last year's £248 million collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

● Mr Nigel Lawson said there had been "serious shortcomings" in legislative and Bank of England supervision and announced extensive new powers for the bank.

● The bank's supervision department had been strengthened, tough limits are to be introduced on large loans and there is to be increased monitoring of the bank's control systems (page 19).

● Johnson Matthey Bankers and its former parent, Johnson Matthey plc, are to sue Arthur Young, the accountants who audited the bullion bank until the collapse.

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, censured the Bank of England yesterday for failing to act promptly as it should have done to avert last year's £248 million collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

"They did to some extent fall down on the job," he told the Commons.

But with Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank governor, watching from a gallery, Mr Lawson went out of his way to stress his fullest confidence in the Bank's leadership.

As part of the rescue operation, the Bank has put up a £75 million indemnity, to cover claims, and a £100 million loan which has been converted into capital "to strengthen JMB's balance sheet".

It emerged last night, however, that there have been no dismissals and no resignations from the Bank's supervision department. One manager has been transferred.

In a statement outlining a shake-up of banking supervision, Mr Lawson told MPs: "From this appalling and bizarre record of incompetence and mismanagement, I do hope good will come".

He said that there had been serious shortcomings in the management of JMB, which had also been "guilty of serious misreporting" to Bank of England supervisors. There was no offence involved.

But Mr Lawson did tell MPs, in reply to questions, that much of the old JMB board had resigned, that the private sector, which owned 86 per cent of the losses.

and that shareholders on the parent Johnson Matthey had lost more than £200 million; 70 per cent of their money.

Questions had also been raised about the role of JMB's auditors in the affair, Arthur Young. They are to be sued for negligence, and any damages would be used to offset potential Bank losses.

The Chancellor said that there were other serious shortcomings in legislative and Bank of England supervisory procedures, which drew a sharp distinction between recognized banks and more rigorously supervised licensed deposit-takers.

The JMB collapse has shown that banks could not always guarantee the previously assumed prudence and responsibility and that distinction would therefore be abolished by legislation to be presented within the next 12 months.

However, Mr Lawson said that the heart of the matter was the iron curtain which blocked disclosure between auditors and Bank supervisors, and vice-versa. The auditors' professional code is to be changed and Bank supervisors are to have a statutory gag lifted.

"This iron curtain has to be removed in both ways."

As for the Bank, the Chancellor said that its supervision departments was to be given greater commercial experience; more secondments, both ways, with commercial banks; a more professionally qualified accountants.

"The decision is being taken," he said.

Parliament, page 4
Leading article, page 45

Accountancy firm to be sued

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Johnson Matthey Bankers and its former parent, Johnson Matthey plc, are to sue Arthur Young, the firm of accountants which audited the bullion bank until it had to be bailed out.

The claims for damages - the amounts are not being disclosed - may run to several hundred million pounds.

There have long been suggestions that Arthur Young should have realized sooner that there were serious problems emerging within JMB, although Arthur Young has contested this.

JMB's action is fully supported by the Bank of England, which rescued it last year. JMB will be claiming damages for losses suffered as a result of

alleged negligence and failure of duty on the part of the auditors. The losses which have come to light in JMB total £248 million.

Johnson Matthey lost £150 million as a result of the catastrophe, it told Arthur Young more than a month ago that it was suing for damages.

Arthur Young has not yet received details of the legal action. Mr Andrew Darnall, a partner, said yesterday: "We will certainly be vigorously defending these claims."

If JMB is successful in winning damages from Arthur Young, the proceeds would eventually be used to help repay claims on the £150 million of

700 jobs to go at Shell plant

By David Young

Shell Chemicals UK has announced that 700 of the 1,200 jobs at its Carrington plant near Manchester are to go.

The company, which has lost £200 million in the past five years, hopes to reach a final agreement over the redundancy with the unions in the next four weeks and hopes to shed jobs through early retirement.

A voluntary severance scheme has been extended and a redeployment and retraining unit has been set up to help find new jobs for staff affected.

Operations at the site are being trimmed because of cheaper products becoming available from the Shell-Esso petrochemical plant at Mossburn in Fife, although some products from Mossburn will be used to maintain 500 jobs at Carrington.

Speaker promises questions review

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, agreed yesterday to think again about his remarks which Labour MPs feared might limit their chances to question ministers.

After complaints in the Commons that too few Labour backbenchers had been called during the 15 minutes allowed for questions to the Prime Minister, the Speaker defended the exercise of his judgement in terms which led members of the Opposition front bench to question him also.

Mr Peter Shore, Labour's shadow leader of the Commons, thought Mr Weatherill had set two precedents, to which he politely took exception. Mr Weatherill said there was no precedent - he had not changed his practice, but he promised to reflect on the exchanges.

The Speaker's troubles began when he told Mr Don Dixon, Labour MP for Jarrow, that he had to balance Labour and Conservative questioners, and that if Mr Neil Kinnock, as Leader of the Opposition, put more than one question he "had to take that into account."

Mr Kinnock rose to say he had not understood that any time he took was at his backbenchers' expense. He hoped the Speaker would note that Mrs Thatcher had now started heckling as well as evading his questions.

Mr Willie Hamilton, (Labour Fife Central) spoke darkly of "an impression of bias". Mr Weatherill said there were more Conservative than Opposition MPs, and he did not think it biased or unfair if he took into account the balance of numbers in the House.

BBC opts for £30m White City site

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC has abandoned its plans to demolish the Langham Hotel in Portland Place to make way for a new central London broadcasting centre in favour of the £30 million purchase of White City Station, next to its Television Centre.

The Corporation denied the scrapping of the 100 million redevelopment of the Langham had anything to do with the recent licence fee settlement. The BBC chairman, Mr Stuart Young, said that the plan for the Langham site was "superb", but the appearance of White City on the market last year was too good to ignore.

The move will involve shifting 6,000 staff from central

London to White City, and will eventually leave the BBC with only two main central London locations, Broadcasting House, its original headquarters and Bush House, the base of BBC External Services.

The Corporation is expected to sell two freehold properties, the extension to Broadcasting House and the Langham, and dispose of 21 leasehold buildings which cost £10 million a year.

Mr Young refused to be drawn on the final cost of the move, although he said it would be less than the Langham plan and the £30 million purchase price for the 16-acre site was considerably less than the amount the BBC will raise through selling its leaseholds and freeholds.

He thought it unlikely the BBC would have to pay relocation allowance to staff moved to west London. The first staff are due to move within three years.

Mr Alasdair Milne, the BBC's director general, said: "This is obviously a major move by the BBC. We have talked to the senior management and through them to the staff, but I don't think this is a matter which fundamentally concerns the unions and certainly we do not need their consent."

The Corporation is thought to have paid between £3 million and £5 million to the architect, Mr Norman Foster, for his work on the Langham site, although Mr Young refused to confirm the figures yesterday.

He said the work carried out by Mr Foster would be useful



American hostage Mr Allyn Conwell, "elected" by fellow hostages to speak to journalists at Beirut airport. "We are all in good health," he said.

Britain 'not able to cope with drugs problem'

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Britain has "woefully inadequate" treatment and rehabilitation facilities to cope with the growing number of hard drug addicts, an all party Commons select committee disclosed yesterday.

The committee accused the Government, which has only a handful of officials dealing with the problem, of displaying little sense of direction in its efforts to prevent drug misuse.

With the increasing number of heroin and cocaine addicts expected to accelerate dramatically in the next few years, the MPs demand an immediate increase in drug units, specialist medical staff and the setting up of a national drugs advisory service. Otherwise, it says, hundreds of addicts will die.

Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North-East and chairman of the social services select committee, said: "All this will mean the Government will have to provide resources. You can't do it without money. This will not be a very popular recommendation with the Government, but the services, care and advice have to be made available."

"We need something like £10 million and you cannot say this is going to be a one-off amount of money."

The MPs report comes less than a month after colleagues on the home affairs select committee gave a warning that Britain faces the most serious peace-time threat to its national well-being from the American boom in hard drugs which is set to sweep across the Atlantic.

Mrs Short said treatment facilities in some parts of the country were so scarce that when parents discovered a son or daughter was using drugs "they find to their horror there is no one they can turn to for help."

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher told MPs that the Government would spend more money, if needed, on tracking down drug traffickers.

Help for addicts, page 5

Angry Reagan says America has reached its limits

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan, declaring that "our limits have been reached," yesterday named Vice-President George Bush to head a task force to co-ordinate US and allied attempts to curb international terrorism.

Mr Reagan, reacting to the killing of six Americans in El Salvador, and the hijack crisis in Beirut, said the vice-president would pursue his campaign for a co-ordinated Western effort to combat terrorism during his seven nation trip to Europe which begins this weekend.

"We, and similarly threatened friends," he said in a statement, "must see what can be done to end this increasingly violent and indiscriminate but purposeful affront to humanity."

The statement was released shortly after the president met Mr Bush, Mr William Casey, head of the CIA, and other officials to consider responses to the latest killings in El Salvador and the holding of

more than 40 Americans by Shia Muslim terrorists in Beirut.

Mr Reagan said that although the US by nature was slow to anger, "we also have our limits - and our limits have been reached." But he said that "what we do in these circumstances must not be done in pointless anger. These events call for reasoned responses to lawless actions by those who do not abide by the norms of civilised society."

"Those who are responsible for such lawlessness and those who support it, must know that the consequences of their actions will never be capitulation to terrorist demands."

The president's statement came as the Administration continued efforts to build up diplomatic pressure for the release of the hostages.

However, officials conceded that attempts had not produced any signs of progress. Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said that although

the US had received "positive responses" from most of the governments it had been in touch with in the Middle East, there was "no unsaid, unspoken deal," in the offering.

In that, the Administration is maintaining a determination not to make any concessions to the hijackers to secure the release of the hostages. However, in private, the US is still pressing Israel to free more than 700 Shia prisoners whose release Mr Nabih Berri, the Amal Shia leader, is demanding as a condition for liberating the hostages.

United States officials have expressed anger at Israel's refusal to budge on the issue. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, said the release of the hostages was "an American problem," and suggested that the United States was shirking its responsibility by saying publicly it would not make concessions to terrorists, while privately urging Israel to make a deal on its behalf.

Israel says no swap for hostages

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli policy of official silence on the TWA hijacking broke down comprehensively yesterday with senior ministers going on the record in an effort to try and dissociate Israel from any responsibility in the affair.

Following controversial remarks made on American television by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister and vice-Prime Minister, said in a television interview that he did not believe that Israel would agree to release the 764 Shia Muslim detainees being held in northeast Israel.

However, Mr Shamir added with a note of ambiguity that Israel would continue to release the detainees as the security situation in south Lebanon permitted, without any connection to the hijack.

This new formula was fleshed out by a senior government official who said that Israel would not delay its plans to release the prisoners if the security situation in southern Lebanon permitted it.

He added that if the Beirut hostages were held for a long time, some of the 764 detainees now held at a heavily-guarded camp at Ajlun near the port city of Haifa could, in the meantime, be set free.

He emphasized the determining factor would be the situation in southern Lebanon where Israel has been hoping that the detention of the Muslims might prevent further attacks from militants.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, claimed that Israel had no responsibility for the hijacking and therefore would not relate to it in public. However, he said he respected and admired very much the position taken by President Reagan.

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Economics key word as talks break down

By our Labour Reporter

Talks on a new colliery review procedure broke down last night on the issue of economics - the problem at the heart of the miners' strike. The National Coal Board insisted that the viability of pits should be a legitimate criterion for referring proposed shut downs to the modified procedure with its new dependent element.

More than three and a half hours of discussions involving Mr James Cowan, the Board's deputy chairman, the National Union of Mineworkers, the British Association of Colliery Management, and the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shiftfitters (Nacods) ended in deadlock.

It was the sixth meeting on the subject and no further talks are planned. But Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, said he was prepared to try again to arrive at a deal. Mr Scargill said the talks had reached stalemate because of the Board's insistence on including words in the procedure which would "influence and prejudice" hearings by the independent body.

Mr Ken Sampson, president of the deputies, said the modified review procedure was the only formal way in which the industry's employees could protest over colliery closures. But he added that the argument had yet again centred on the word "economic".

The NCB's commitment to a new procedure started a deputy's strike last October, but details of the mechanism have proved extremely difficult to work out.

Recourse in tribunals, NCB says

By Barrie Clement

The National Coal Board yesterday decided to reject a parliamentary select committee's request to review the cases of miners dismissed during the year-long strike.

The board has refused to reemploy 599 pitmen out of 1,013 dismissed.

The all-party committee, which reported on Wednesday, had not given "full weight to the extraordinary conditions of violence and intimidation which arose during the recent strike, and the period which immediately followed", the board said in a statement.

It was noted that the committee's decision was not unanimous. The recommendation was passed by a six to five majority.

The board repeated its insistence that all dismissed miners had legitimate recourse to industrial tribunals and that area managements were continuing the board's policy of reviewing dismissal cases. But the committee's suggestion that all areas which did not investigate dismissals should now do so, and that there should be a national investigation into all such decisions, was rejected.

The board's statement said that officials had operated within the normal Acs code on disciplinary procedure where "practicable and appropriate".

One of the main causes of disquiet was the seeming inconsistencies between one board area's policy, and another. In Scotland, one of 202 pitmen sacked, none were reemployed, but in South Wales out of 37 dismissed, 23 were reinstated.

More than 300 delegates from the traditionally militant South Wales coalfield voted overwhelmingly to oppose a proposed rule change which would allow Mr Arthur Scargill to remain as NUM president until he retires.

Tory anger over MPs' call for review of pit dismissals

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government's embarrassment and anger over the Commons employment committee's call for a review of the cases of miners dismissed during the strike was shown at yesterday when the Prime Minister condemned the committee's report as "shabby".

At the same time 150 backbench Conservative signatures were quickly put to a motion describing the report as partisan and unbalanced.

The report was approved because one Conservative, Mr John Gorn, voted consistently with the Labour minority, to the anger of his fellow Conservatives and the disgust of ministers.

It called a review by the National Coal Board, at national level, of the cases of dismissed miners whose reinstatement had been rejected at area level; and areas which had not held reviews to hold them.

Mrs Thatcher, fired by an invitation from the Labour benches to instruct the coal board accordingly said the board would consider with care the committee's recommendations, which they noted were not unanimous.

She added: "It was shabby that the committee did not in any way condemn the tactics of violence and intimidation against working miners".

A bitter, behind-the-scenes Commons clash went public yesterday when a Conservative MP delivered a scathing attack on a Tory backbench colleague and the Labour chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Employment (Anthony Bevins writes).

The committee urged a national review of more than 600 cases of striking miners who had been dismissed and refused reinstatement.

But Mr Gerrard Neale, Conservative MP for Cornwall North and a member of the employment committee, went to a press conference yesterday and attacked Mr Gorn, Conservative MP for London North; Mr Ron Leighton, the Labour chairman; and the report, which had already been dismissed by senior Whitehall sources.

With Mr Gorn sitting a few feet from him, Mr Neale said his colleague was a "maverick".

Coal board guilty of 'arbitrary clemency'

By our Labour Reporter

The National Coal Board, in the words of the Select Committee on Employment, has been guilty of an "act of arbitrary clemency" in its treatment of miners dismissed during the year-long strike.

According to the coal board yesterday, it has decided to reinstate 599 of the 1,013 dismissed.

The committee's criticism, published on Wednesday, centred on inconsistencies and anomalies in the criteria used for reemployment between coal board areas.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman of the board, has said that there was a central philosophy which guided the policy, although the final decision was "devolved".

Mr MacGregor emphasized that the central principle was that "areas should not reinstate anyone who has been dismissed after conviction for acts of serious violence, intimidation or vandalism or dismissed on

and "contrary" for siding with Labour MPs in support of a review; that Mr Leighton was "inviting scorn" by steering the committee into party political controversy; and that the report was "worthless" and deserved to be "rubbed by Whitehall".

Mr Neale said that he objected to the report because the committee had failed to address the considerable injustice suffered by working miners who were continuing to suffer intimidation.

He also said in a further reference to Mr Gorn: "I do not wish to be a party to a report which gives succour to people who have committed violence against their fellow employees, and I think those people who have supported this report must be accountable to their own conscience and their own constituencies".

Mr Gorn said that he was flattered to be called a maverick. "Somebody who considers things on their merits. He said that Mr Neale was doing less than justice to Tory members of the committee who had investigated coal board and union witnesses. He was only surprised that having heard the evidence, Mr Neale's conclusion "didn't flow from it".

Mr Neale had taken the view, echoed by government sources yesterday, that the matter was for the coal board and that select committees would be better served if they examined issues of greater consensus. He threatened that Conservative members would have to "reconsider their position" if that did not happen.

But Mr Leighton, who had by this time given up his press conference, pointed out that the committee had reached considerable agreement with the coal board and a unanimous report on the controversial issue of the GCHQ union ban.

He complained that the Tory dissidents had held a "caucus" prior to the report meeting and that "half the committee had made their minds up before we started". That, he said, was not in the spirit of the select committee system.

The press conference was also attended by Mr Tristan Carl-Jones, a government whip who would report back to ministers on a dispute which could yet have consequences for the select committee system.

good evidence of involvement in them." The application of that broad policy seemed to be somewhat uneven. In Scotland, 202 men were dismissed and none have been taken their backs. In the North-east, 230 were dismissed but 127 have since been reinstated.

In Yorkshire, 310 were dismissed and 96 taken back. In the Midlands, 196 were dismissed and some have been reinstated. Parliament, page 4

Correction

Contrary to our report of April 1, the library at St Charles Catholic primary school in north Kensington, west London, was not obliged to close after a staff meeting concerning an Inner London Education Authority review of schoolbooks. Although several books were removed, largely because of their age and condition, they did not include *Robinson Crusoe*, *Tom Sawyer* and *Tin-Tin*, which are still available in the library.



Britain's largest gorilla, Djoum, feasting on fruit in his new enclosure at Howletts Park Zoo, near Canterbury yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

Scheme to help save small farms

By John Young

Proposals aimed at helping small farms to survive were put forward yesterday in a discussion paper issued by the National Farmers' Union.

They include a "code of practice" discouraging amalgamations of tenanted holdings, an appeal for relief from capital transfer tax, controls on the buying and selling of land and on farm sizes; direct payments to increase support for small livestock farmers, including special assistance for those kept on permanent grassland; and favourable treatment for small dairy farmers in any arrangements made for the transfer of milk quotas.

The discussion paper pointed out that many owner-occupied smaller farms have disappeared because they have been unable to achieve a big enough turnover.

The problems of surplus production and budgetary restraint affecting the EEC are leading to financial pressure on agriculture, with smaller producers the worst affected.

The NFU believes that many small and part-time farms can remain viable if given a measure of assistance. Such help would be justified in the interests of preventing further rural depopulation, it urges.

Any new arrangements would have to be consistent with EEC rules and require new Community legislation, but the new EEC structures regulation is itself changing the emphasis of policy in favour of smaller farms.

The NFU also announced a long-term fund-raising programme to finance agricultural projects in the Third World. The Send A Tonne Development Fund is a successor to the Send A Tonne To Africa campaign, which raised more than £2 million and sent nearly 12,000 tonnes of wheat to the famine areas of Ethiopia.

Omens good for sea eagles in Scotland

By Ronald Faux

The last batch of white-tailed sea eagle chicks in a 10-year project to reintroduce the birds into Britain arrived yesterday from Norway.

They were flown to RAF Kinloss and into formal quarantine as it was announced that a pair of Norwegian sea eagles introduced to the island of Mull, Orkney, had successfully laid the first to do so in the wild in Britain for nearly 70 years.

Civil Service campaign

Armstrong acts to lift morale

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Whitehall's top officials have embarked on a tub-thumping campaign to lift the morale of their staff after the Poincaré affair, the decision by the Government to hold down Civil Service salaries, and the damaging allegations that the upper ranks have become politicized.

This week Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, and Miss Anne Mueller, the second Permanent Secretary with the overall responsibility in the Civil Service, chose to make public speeches depicting positive aspects of the Civil Service. And today the Board of Inland Revenue makes public a document being circulated to tax staff which sets out in unprecedented detail staff and computer changes and describing an optimistic future.

Sir Robert, who rarely speaks for the public record, told the annual conference of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy that there was no truth in the Whitehall

rumours that candidates for top jobs are now vetted by the Prime Minister on political grounds.

He went out of his way to emphasize that his role in senior appointments included making sure that political considerations did not enter; he made sure jobs went to those best qualified.

He and Miss Mueller, who also spoke to the accountants' conference, emphasized the virtue of public service. In Whitehall this has now become a code phrase to be used against ministers, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who in the past have devalued the work of the Civil Service.

Miss Mueller sketched a bright future in which in spite of job cuts, the Civil Service would become more managerial and efficient. She responded to criticism that the Government does not know what it wants the Civil Service to be by saying there was a strategy for change

that would last until the year 2000.

She said: "The Civil Service has already embarked on a series of fundamental reforms which will substantially improve its effectiveness in serving the community and responding to new problems as they arise in an increasingly uncertain world. The leadership will exist to carry through these reforms."

While acknowledging problems in recruiting and keeping trained tax inspectors, a report by the Inland Revenue, *Direction of Change*, says that within four years a complete network of computers would be in place to deal with Pay As You Earn and Schedule D taxation.

There had been "turbulence and uncertainties" the paper said, but staff were reassured that there was a plan to carry the Inland Revenue into the 1990s with more confidence. An initiative was launched to improve its public relations. Leading article, page 15

Another union votes for levy

By Rupert Morris

The Union of Communication Workers became the fourth union yesterday to reaffirm through a ballot its support for a political fund. It has 195,698 members spread round the country, with 30 per cent female membership, and is the largest and most significant union to vote so far.

In a 70 per cent postal vote, 102,546 voted "Yes", and 33,337 "No". There were 571 spoilt papers, and the count was supervised by an official of the Industrial Society.

Other unions to have held similar ballots and to have voted to retain the political fund are the print union Sogat '82, the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union (FATAT), and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC).

A three-year pay deal has been struck between Nabisco, the American food manufacturer, and the General, Municipal and Boilermakers' Union, representing 1,700 production workers at the Jacobs biscuit factory at Altrincham, Liverpool, which gives rises of 27.5 to 30 per cent, in return for 170 voluntary redundancies and far-reaching changes in working practices.

Unionists in talks over IRA attacks

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland met the leaders of Ulster's two unionist parties separately and then, at their request, together in London yesterday to discuss the imminent danger of a Protestant backlash and possible civil war. They were accused of warmongering, incitement and of deliberately inflaming feelings within the community by spokesmen of Northern Ireland's two other constitutional political parties the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Alliance Party. It was an attempt to blackmail the government into ending the Anglo-Irish talks, an SDLP spokesman said.

Before meeting the two Unionist leaders Mr Hurd used a speech to US correspondents in London to emphasize that the Government's discussions with Dublin - over Northern Ireland affairs would continue despite "loyalist" opposition and misgivings.

Brecon bubbles with poll permutations

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Brecon and Radnor by-election is fast developing into the most fascinating, and difficult to predict, contest since the Liberal/Social Democratic Party Alliance was formed in 1981.

If the Alliance is to gain the victory it needs on July 4, it may have to achieve it by a different route than previous by-election successes, which started with Mr Roy Jenkins's dramatic near-miss at Warrington in 1983.

Past triumphs have nearly always come where one of its main opponents has started in a hopeless third position, leaving it vulnerable to a relentless Alliance squeeze as the contest develops. At Crosby, it was Labour and at Barmesley, the Conservatives.

That is unlikely at Brecon. If Mr Richard Livsey, the Alliance candidate, is to win the seat from the Tories, there are signs that he will have to do it without the benefit of a chunk of the Labour vote.

As the contest came alive this week, all the party camps agreed that the permutations were numerous.

Independent observations suggested that while the Alliance position appeared to be improving at the expense of the Tories, the Labour vote was holding. Although the MORI showing him 8 per cent in front seemed wide of the mark, Mr Richard Livsey, its candidate, was getting enough promises of support from disgruntled Tories to begin expecting at least an increase on 1983.

At the general election it is estimated that about 5,000 of 6,000 of the Labour vote of 9,471 came from the old mining area of Ysgodnydd in the south. It would be surprising if they deserted him.

Mr Livsey, an earnest 50-year-old whose knowledge of local issues seems to be serving him well in his doorstep campaigning, will need a

considerable collapse of the 48.2 per cent vote obtained by the former Tory MP Mr Tom Hooson to see him home.

There is guarded confidence in the Alliance camp. Accompanying Mr Christopher Butler, the Conservative candidate, it is obvious that high unemployment, the teacher's strike and worries over agriculture weigh heavily on 1983 Tory voters.

A majority of those saying they will desert the Conservative cause are expected to be preparing to back the Alliance.

The voters have "extraordinary sophistication", Mr Paddy Ashdown, Liberal MP, remarked this week. Like Mr Livsey, Mr Butler and Mr Willey, son of Fred Willey, the former Labour minister, are competent unexciting performers, well-chosen in a seat where flamboyance would be frowned upon.

Mr Willey is being subjected to ridiculous overprotection by campaign managers, who appear not to trust the journalists.

Mr Hooson, an independent spirit, clearly had a large personal following taking over the rural Welsh radical vote which supported Labour MPs for four decades.

Mr Livsey appears (just) to be the most likely candidate to inherit that mantle. If he does not pick up enough of the Tory vote the failure of Labour's to crumble could leave Mr Butler in front. A win for Mr Willey would be a surprise.

A Tory third place would not be astonishing.

Nominations closed last night with seven candidates declared. They are: Christopher Butler (Conservative); Richard Livsey (Liberal); Richard Willey (Lab); Mrs Janet Davies (Plaid Cymru); Lord David Sutch (Official Monster Raving Looney Party); Roger Evans (National Conservative); and Andrew Gillingham (Free World From Multiple Selections).

General election 1983: Hooson, T. E. (C) 18,235; Morris, D. (Lab) 9,471; Livsey, R. (Lib) 9,226; Meredith, M. S. (PLC) 640; Booth, R. (Ind) 278. C. maj: 8,784.

Lords support Common Market for mortgages

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

An EEC proposal for a common market for mortgage credit receives support from a House of Lords select committee report published today.

The Lords' European Communities Committee says there is no reason in principle why Europe should not enjoy a common market in mortgage credit, which would be a useful step towards a free internal market in all financial services.

The proposal, in a Commission directive, is that building societies and other institutions would be able to use traditional "techniques", which

differ substantially between countries.

Opening up this market would add appreciably to consumer choice and increase competition, the committee conclude. Welcoming the plan in principle, it records that the British building societies, with much expertise to offer, strongly support the proposed liberalization.

11th report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, 1984-85 (HL 177: A Common Market for Mortgage Credit (Stationery Office, £7.20p).

REMEMBER TWO-WAY FAMILY FAVOURITES?



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Cashless shopping set to start in 1,000 centres all linked by computers

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The multi-million pound cost to paper generated each year by shoppers making purchases by cheque or credit card is to be eliminated during the next three years and replaced by electronic cashless shopping.

Last year about 3,000 million pieces of paper were used in the processing of cheques and credit cards.

But banks and suppliers announced yesterday a network of specially designed electronic terminals to be installed from November in 1,000 shopping locations.

Shoppers and their banks have become increasingly concerned in recent years about the expense of processing cheques and credit cards. Retailers pay a fee to the credit card companies to cover processing costs. Bank charges for cheques have also increased. The principal features of the new network are:

The electronic network which will be one of the forerunners of a national network is one of three projects sponsored by the

English and Scottish clearing banks.

The first terminals which will allow Access and Visa card holders to pay for their purchases in seconds by inserting their cards into the electronic machines, will be installed at Brent Cross Shopping Centre in north London.

All the terminals are expected to be installed by the summer of next year. The electronic terminals are linked to a computer operated by the clearing banks. The credit cardholders insert their cards into the machine and allow it to read the magnetic strip on the back of the card. That plastic strip contains all the relevant details of the card and its cardholder and assists the central banking computer, connected by telephone lines, to check whether the use of the card is valid.

Apart from eliminating paper the terminals also provide an instant check against fraud. The central computer can easily be updated on stolen cards and will give the shopper far more personal security.

If validated the cardholder's

account is debited and the money transferred electronically to the relevant retailer's bank. The credit cardholder is billed in the normal way.

The terminals can also be used to check the validity of cheque cards using the same mechanisms but in the long term the idea would be to minimize cheque purchases of not eliminate them completely.

Another cashless shopping exercise, again sponsored by the clearing banks is to take place in Milton Keynes. Thirty terminals will be located in shops, stores and petrol stations and will be triggered by special cards - similar to that used in automated teller machines (ATMs) - issued by Midland and National Westminster Banks.

A third project which will begin at the year end and will be operated by National Westminster Bank involves the installation of another 30 terminals around the UK.

There are now 22 million credit cardholders in Britain, a growth of 40 per cent in the last three years.

Romantic prize for dormant novelist

By Tony Samstag

An historical novel that spent most of the past 16 years languishing in a plastic bag under a bed earned its author £12,500, yesterday, the largest literary award after the Booker prize.

Mrs Susan Kay, who will be 33 on Monday, began *Legacy*, based on the life of Elizabeth I, when she was 15 after seeing *Kenilworth*, the historical novel by Sir Walter Scott, in an adaptation. Eighteen months later, her mother typed out the manuscript, about 350 pages, but Mrs Kay "got cold feet" and refused to send it to a publisher.

Yesterday the Society of Authors announced that the book, 1,041 manuscript pages long, had won the main Betty Trask award for first novels of a romantic or traditional nature by writers under 35. This year, it was awarded the Historical Novel Prize in Memory of George Heyer, which will be worth £2,000 on the eve of publication, October 3.

Mrs Kay's relationship with *Legacy* was "a bit fugitive". She hid it under her bed and wrote stealthily and intermittently; she estimated that she has rewritten it 10 times.

Her husband Norman read it only a few months before she submitted it for the Heyer competition last August.

Mrs Kay worked as a teacher near her native Manchester before leaving to have her two children Tristan, aged six, and Sarah, aged three. The family lives in Stockport, where she has started thinking about her next book, "some sort of family saga" set at the turn of the century.

Legacy takes as its theme romance, raised to the level of Tudor in her lifetime: the flyleaf quotes the remark of Simon



Mrs Susan Kay, winner of the Betty Trask prize (Photograph: Dod Miller)

Renard, the Spanish Ambassador, that "she has the spirit of incantation". The book is to be published by Bodley Head and Corgi.

The Trask award, in its second year, was at its inception Britain's largest single literary prize.

This year, Booker McConnell, perhaps inspired by the largesse made possible by the £400,000 legacy of Betty Trask, a reclusive writer of light romances, raised its first prize from £10,000 to £15,000.

Mrs Kay is the first to win the full £12,500; the judges failed to agree last year and awarded a joint prize of £6,750 each to two authors.

Police will reexamine drug killing case

By Craig Seton

The police are to reexamine the death of a man from drugs overdose after a coroner's verdict that he was killed unlawfully. The dead man's father has started a campaign to have his son's alleged drugs supplier prosecuted.

Warwickshire police said yesterday that they were studying the implications of the unlawful killing verdict on Mr Christopher Fitzgerald, aged 23, an unemployed mechanic, of Rugby. It is believed to be the first such verdict applied in a self-induced drugs overdose.

But Det Chief Sup Danny Wright, head of Warwickshire CID, said an investigation of alleged suppliers of drugs that killed Mr Fitzgerald had produced no evidence that could lead in a reasonable prospect of a conviction. "We will look again at the case to see if there are any avenues we have not pursued, but I doubt it very much."

Mr Fitzgerald, a known drug user, was found dead in his flat in February. He had died of an overdose of Polonium, a strong pain-killer prescribed to cancer victims.

Since then his father, Mr David Fitzgerald, has placed posters around Rugby naming a man he claimed had supplied the Polonium, which was believed to have been stolen in a raid on a chemist's shop.

Mr Fitzgerald failed to have the man named at Wednesday's inquest into his son's death, but Mr Allan Dixon, the Warwickshire Coroner, decided that he had been killed unlawfully.

Mr Peter Joslin, the Chief Constable of Warwickshire, said at a press conference yesterday, "This is an issue with possible implications not just for Warwickshire and we need to study it."

Mr and Mrs Fitzgerald have said that if their son's "pusher" is not prosecuted by the police they may consider a private prosecution.

Knife charge acquittal for royal chauffeur

A former chauffeur to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who was found with a five-inch knife in his possession, was acquitted at Southwark Crown Court, London, yesterday of possessing an offensive weapon.

Mr Kevin Boland, aged 19, lived in a room at Clarence House until he gave up his £60-a-week job after his arrest. He had pleaded not guilty to possessing the weapon.

Mr Boland had told the court earlier that when he was stopped by the police last December he had forgotten that the black-handled survival knife was in his pocket.

The court heard, however, that when questioned by the police in Horseferry Road, Westminster, in the early hours of December 15 he told them he thought carrying the knife might be "advisable", considering where he was going.

In court Mr Boland said he had given the police that answer because he thought at the time that they would not believe the real reason he had it: he had simply forgotten it was there.

After the verdict Mr Boland's father Mr Dick Boland, a royal coachman and former National Hunt jockey, who sat with his wife throughout the two-day trial, said he was delighted. "I had no doubt whatsoever; that is why we elected trial by jury," he said.

Mr Boland is now unemployed. Before he left the court his counsel, Mr David Calver-Smith, wished him the best of luck.

Later Mr Boland's solicitor, Mr Anthony Cox, said his client was extremely concerned at the type of publicity given by one or two newspapers immediately after his arrest, and that he would consider proceedings for defamation.

A spokesman for Clarence House refused to say whether Mr Boland would be considered if he applied for his job again. There was no precedent to go by.

Russian to sell eye lens in West

By Thomson Prentice

Science Correspondent

An artificial lens that can "float" in the human eye make the wearing of spectacles unnecessary after cataract operations is being made available in the West by its Russian inventor.

Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the Soviet Union's leading eye surgeon, said in London yesterday that spectacles would become obsolete in about 25 years through this and other developments.

The new lens is made of silicon and can be rolled or folded for insertion into the eye through an incision as narrow as two millimetres. It will "float" there for decades, Professor Fyodorov said.

The new lens and other products from Professor Fyodorov's Moscow Research Institute of Eye Microsurgery, will be made in the United States by a company, Medtech, formed from a European company, Eurolens.

Other forms of intra-ocular lenses are implanted in about 35,000 British patients a year who have undergone cataract removal. The new lens, it is said, causes less trauma to the eye and results in faster healing and improved vision.

Professor Fyodorov is one of the pioneers of radial keratotomy, an operation to correct myopia, and has 150 doctors in Moscow performing the operation regularly.

The operation is available in some health service hospitals in Britain, but has been criticized by some ophthalmic surgeons as dangerous because of possible long-term effects.

Horizon puts 8% on winter holidays

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Horizon, the third largest package holidays organization, intensified the winter price war yesterday by announcing average increases of 8 per cent.

Thomson Holidays, the largest operator, and British Airways Enterprise-Sovereign subsidiary, published winter brochures with increases of just under 10 per cent. Thomson said that if competitors much undercut its holidays it will reprint its winter brochures with lower prices.

Horizon is offering free car parking at airports and special deals on first class British Rail travel with many tickets free.

Horizon's lower increase does not necessarily mean much difference in comparable prices. Mr Ken Franklin, Horizon Holidays' chairman and managing director, said: "Some of our prices may be a bit above Thomson, some a bit below."

Some Horizon prices were a

little high last winter. Mr Franklin said. Getting back in line with competitors accounts for part of the lower increase.

It means that Horizon is accepting lower profit margins, but it is also claims to have done some better deals with suppliers such as hoteliers, particularly in Spain and to have a better mix.

Sid holiday prices have risen by 1 to 2 per cent whereas some operators have increases of twice that amount.

Thomson is unlikely to make a fresh move until most large operators have produced brochures, although Horizon is the second largest winter operator. Intasun, yet to bring out its winter programme, is the other biggest influence.

There is no room to cut prices further, Mr Franklin said. "But we intend to remain competitive."

Any bookings will benefit from any future price cuts.

Videogames addicts get life for woman's murder

Kevin and Margaret Cavey, who are video games addicts, were jailed for life yesterday for the "shameful and cowardly" murder of a frail spinster.

Eunice Flashman, aged 78, was battered and left for dead in her one-room rented flat in Monks Road, Exeter, with a plastic bag over her head. The couple spent the £15 they had taken from her on video games and on drinks, Exeter Crown Court was told.

Cavey, aged 25, unemployed, who lived in the same house as the victim, also received a further five years, to run concurrently, for robbery. His

wife, aged 31, received a four-year term, also concurrent, for the same offence.

Mr Michael Turner, QC, for the prosecution, had told the Court that the couple went to Miss Flashman's room "intending to steal and intending that she should die."

In front of his wife, Cavey attacked the woman, beating her about the head and breaking her breastbone and two ribs before putting the bag over her head. They locked her in the room and dropped the key down a drain. Her landlord found the body two days later.

Telecom's new phone box goes on show

American-style telephone booths to replace the familiar red boxes went on show in London yesterday.

They are made of aluminium and stainless steel, with toughened glass in an attempt to deter vandals. The booths will be installed in the next few months as part of British Telecom's £160 million modernization programme.

Most of Britain's 76,000 public telephone boxes will be replaced over the next decade by the new ones, although some of the old red boxes will remain if local people campaign to save them.

Glasgow to get £57m complex

Glasgow is to have the biggest glass building in Britain in a £57 million shopping development at St Enoch Square in the city centre.

Work on the glass-covered complex will begin this year, and 350 jobs will result from the three-year construction. The centre is expected to give 2,500 permanent jobs.



Holding her father's hand, Ruth Lawrence, the mathematician's prodigy who won a place at Oxford University at the age of 9 and came up at 11, arriving at the examination schools yesterday to take the first paper of her finals a year early. The girl, aged 13, took only two years for the degree course, as quite often happens with mathematicians.

Decision to re-auction horse 'absurd'

A Tattersalls auctioneer cost the owners of the racehorse Sulafah 230,000 guineas by wrongly deciding not to re-auction the horse immediately after a disputed bid, it was claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Peter Sheridan, QC, was making closing submissions on behalf of Alchemy International, the original owner of the colt. It is said Britain's largest bloodstock auctioneer for the money it claims it lost because of Tattersalls' alleged negligent handling of the sale.

Sulafah was knocked down to Mr James Flood, a professional gambler, of Malone

Road, Belfast, for 430,000 guineas at the yearling sale in September, 1983.

But after Mr Flood denied making the bid and refused to sign the sales slip the auctioneer, Captain Kenneth Watt, decided it would be better for Sulafah to be re-auctioned at a later sale because of the "stigma" which he claimed would result in his fetching a lower price that day. But Sulafah fetched only £200,000 at a sale two days later.

It was an "absurd" decision which he made quickly, probably within 10 minutes. "He made it firmly and he made it quite wrongly", Mr Sheridan said.

The company is seeking damages from Tattersalls and Mr Flood for the difference between the 430,000 guinea bid and 200,000 guineas. Both defendants deny liability.

Mr Sheridan claimed that when the bid was disputed Captain Watt had told Mr Henry Cecil, the trainer, that Tattersalls would pay the 10,000 guinea difference between the 430,000 guineas and the previous bid. But Tattersalls says the offer was never made.

The hearing continues today. Mr Justice Hirst will give judgment next week.

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Traffic rise overturns road cost estimates

By Michael Bailey

Transport Editor

Britain is to spend more on roads to cope with unexpected high traffic growth, Mr John Chalker, Minister of Transport, disclosed yesterday.

The 1985 programme, costing £311m and an extra capacity study into the Dartford tunnel, will cost more than the 1984 programme, which cost £260m on new roads and £52m on maintenance.

The programme is more than expected because traffic is growing about 10 per cent more quickly than predicted five years ago. It is projected 25 per cent in the next five years and 50 per cent in the next 10 years.

Mrs Chalker admitted that the road programme would be built by the end of 1990.

Among new schemes the programme yesterday said:

8. Haverhill and Westmoreland (£20 million); widening of the A1000, A1001, A1002, A1003, A1004, A1005, A1006, A1007, A1008, A1009, A1010, A1011, A1012, A1013, A1014, A1015, A1016, A1017, A1018, A1019, A1020, A1021, A1022, A1023, A1024, A1025, A1026, A1027, A1028, A1029, A1030, A1031, A1032, A1033, A1034, A1035, A1036, A1037, A1038, A1039, A1040, A1041, A1042, A1043, A1044, A1045, A1046, A1047, A1048, A1049, A1050, A1051, A1052, A1053, A1054, A1055, A1056, A1057, A1058, A1059, A1060, A1061, A1062, A1063, A1064, A1065, A1066, A1067, A1068, A1069, A1070, A1071, A1072, A1073, A1074, A1075, A1076, A1077, A1078, A1079, A1080, A1081, A1082, A1083, A1084, A1085, A1086, A1087, A1088, A1089, A1090, A1091, A1092, A1093, A1094, A1095, A1096, A1097, A1098, A1099, A1100, A1101, A1102, A1103, A1104, A1105, A1106, A1107, A1108, A1109, A1110, A1111, A1112, A1113, A1114, A1115, A1116, A1117, A1118, A1119, A1120, A1121, A1122, A1123, A1124, A1125, A1126, A1127, A1128, A1129, A1130, A1131, A1132, A1133, A1134, A1135, A1136, A1137, A1138, A1139, A1140, A1141, A1142, A1143, A1144, A1145, A1146, A1147, A1148, A1149, A1150, A1151, A1152, A1153, A1154, A1155, A1156, A1157, A1158, A1159, A1160, A1161, A1162, A1163, A1164, A1165, A1166, A1167, A1168, A1169, A1170, A1171, A1172, A1173, A1174, A1175, A1176, A1177, A1178, A1179, A1180, A1181, A1182, A1183, A1184, A1185, A1186, A1187, A1188, A1189, A1190, A1191, A1192, A1193, A1194, A1195, A1196, A1197, A1198, A1199, A1200, A1201, A1202, A1203, A1204, A1205, A1206, A1207, A1208, A1209, A1210, A1211, A1212, A1213, A1214, A1215, A1216, A1217, A1218, A1219, A1220, A1221, A1222, A1223, A1224, A1225, A1226, A1227, A1228, A1229, A1230, A1231, A1232, A1233, A1234, A1235, A1236, A1237, A1238, A1239, A1240, A1241, A1242, A1243, A1244, A1245, A1246, A1247, A1248, A1249, A1250, A1251, A1252, A1253, A1254, A1255, A1256, A1257, A1258, A1259, A1260, A1261, A1262, A1263, A1264, A1265, A1266, A1267, A1268, A1269, A1270, A1271, A1272, A1273, A1274, A1275, A1276, A1277, A1278, A1279, A1280, A1281, A1282, A1283, A1284, A1285, A1286, A1287, A1288, A1289, A1290, A1291, A1292, A1293, A1294, A1295, A1296, A1297, A1298, A1299, A1300, A1301, A1302, A1303, A1304, A1305, A1306, A1307, A1308, A1309, A1310, A1311, A1312, A1313, A1314, A1315, A1316, A1317, A1318, A1319, A1320, A1321, A1322, A1323, A1324, A1325, A1326, A1327, A1328, A1329, A1330, A1331, A1332, A1333, A1334, A1335, A1336, A1337, A1338, A1339, A1340, A1341, A1342, A1343, A1344, A1345, A1346, A1347, A1348, A1349, A1350, A1351, A1352, A1353, A1354, A1355, A1356, A1357, A1358, A1359, A1360, A1361, A1362, A1363, A1364, A1365, A1366, A1367, A1368, A1369, A1370, A1371, A1372, A1373, A1374, A1375, A1376, A1377, A1378, A1379, A1380, A1381, A1382, A1383, A1384, A1385, A1386, A1387, A1388, A1389, A1390, A1391, A1392, A1393, A1394, A1395, A1396, A1397, A1398, A1399, A1400, A1401, A1402, A1403, A1404, A1405, A1406, A1407, A1408, A1409, A1410, A1411, A1412, A1413, A1414, A1415, A1416, A1417, A1418, A1419, A1420, A1421, A1422, A1423, A1424, A1425, A1426, A1427, A1428, A1429, A1430, A1431, A1432, A1433, A1434, A1435, A1436, A1437, A1438, A1439, A1440, A1441, A1442, A1443, A1444, A1445, A1446, A1447, A1448, A1449, A1450, A1451, A1452, A1453, A1454, A1455, A1456, A1457, A1458, A1459, A1460, A1461, A1462, A1463, A1464, A1465, A1466, A1467, A1468, A1469, A1470, A1471, A1472, A1473, A1474, A1475, A1476, A1477, A1478, A1479, A1480, A1481, A1482, A1483, A1484, A1485, A1486, A1487, A1488, A1489, A1490, A1491, A1492, A1493, A1494, A1495, A1496, A1497, A1498, A1499, A1500, A1501, A1502, A1503, A1504, A1505, A1506, A1507, A1508, A1509, A1510, A1511, A1512, A1513, A1514, A1515, A1516, A1517, A1518, A1519, A1520, A1521, A1522, A1523, A1524, A1525, A1526, A1527, A1528, A1529, A1530, A1531, A1532, A1533, A1534, A1535, A1536, A1537, A1538, A1539, A1540, A1541, A1542, A1543, A1544, A1545, A1546, A1547, A1548, A1549, A1550, A1551, A1552, A1553, A1554, A1555, A1556, A1557, A1558, A1559, A1560, A1561, A1562, A1563, A1564, A1565, A1566, A1567, A1568, A1569, A1570, A1571, A1572, A1573, A1574, A1575, A1576, A1577, A1578, A1579, A1580, A1581, A1582, A1583, A1584, A1585, A1586, A1587, A1588, A1589, A1590, A1591, A1592, A1593, A1594, A1595, A1596, A1597, A1598, A1599, A1600, A1601, A1602, A1603, A1604, A1605, A1606, A1607, A1608, A1609, A1610, A1611, A1612, A1613, A1614, A1615

PARLIAMENT JUNE 20 1985

Rescue of Johnson Matthey

Lawson's statement

Commentary

Banking Bill in wake of JMB collapse

BANKING

The collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers with losses of £248 million exposed major shortcomings in the present law and supervisory procedures which would be tightened up, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the Commons.

A White Paper would be published later this year, he said, followed by a Banking Bill which would abolish the two-tier system of supervision and allow regular dialogue between supervisors and auditors of banks.

He said JMB would be taking legal action against Arthur Young, its auditors and he pointed out that the supervisors could not escape criticism for failing to respond more quickly to the danger signals.

While being questioned about his statement Mr Lawson said the Bank of England did not come under fire down on the job but, he added, he had complete confidence in the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton.

Mr Lawson said: "In my statement on December 17, I told the House the Johnson Matthey Bankers affair raised important issues about our present procedures of banking supervision, action to be taken within which it is conducted."

I announced a full review, which would consider whether any early changes in present supervisory procedures were called for in the light of the problems which had arisen in Johnson Matthey Bankers, and whether there was a need to review or amend the Banking Act 1979.

The review committee has presented its report and I shall be considering the committee's proposals carefully. In the meantime, I have accepted the report as a basis for immediate consultation.

Many of the recommendations do not require legislation. Some are already being implemented. But some of the committee's proposals do require fresh legislation.

I therefore propose to publish a White Paper later this year, with the intention of bringing a Banking Bill before the House as soon as possible. The group of Treasury and Bank officials which I set up under

the review committee's terms of reference is continuing its detailed examination of the Banking Act 1979.

I am most grateful to the Governor of the Bank of England, who has chaired the review committee, and to its members, who comprised senior officials of the Bank of England and the Treasury, and a distinguished commercial banker, Mr Daryl Van Weyer.

A note by the Bank of England on events leading to the failure of JMB, the subsequent rescue by the Bank, and its conduct of JMB's affairs is annexed to the Bank's Annual Report and Accounts, which was laid before the House today.

The Bank's account makes it clear that serious shortcomings in the management of JMB led to its collapse - over-rapid expansion of the loan book, heavy concentration of exposures, and lack of adequate supervision. JMB was also guilty of serious misreporting to the supervisory authority.

The circumstances described in the Bank's report must inevitably raise questions about the role of the auditors, Arthur Young. The board of JMB, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson Matthey, has today announced that it will be initiating legal action against Arthur Young.

The Bank's account also explains the reasons for rescuing JMB. In mounting the rescue, I am satisfied that the Governor was acting properly within his discretion.

The board of JMB now estimates the company's losses at £248m. Of this £130 million has been met by JMB's original capital, reserves and provisions, and £250 million by a cash injection from Johnson Matthey plc, the former parent company.

The £130 million is to be met from the indemnity of £150 million, split pound for pound between the Bank of England and a group of private sector banks and members of the London gold market.

Potential claims on the indemnity to date this amount to £68 million, of which £34 million falls to the Bank.

The £150 million indemnity will be only over the long term. JMB's present board of directors are satisfied that the total eventual claims on the indemnity will fall comfortably within the £150 million ceiling.

Since JMB is now its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Bank of England's account stands fully exposed. On November 22 the Bank placed a deposit of £100 million with JMB, which has since been converted into £100 million of additional capital to strengthen JMB's balance sheet. The will, of course, be fully reflected in the price the Bank of England receives for the sale of JMB back to the private sector, which it plans to conclude as soon as practicable.

The review committee has made 34 specific recommendations. Their implementation will require action by the Bank of England, supervised institutions, their auditors and the Government. The arrangements, an several important modifications.

It has taken the view, which I share, that the JMB case exposes major shortcomings in the present regulatory framework and supervisory procedures. I shall in my statement outline only the committee's main proposals. A full summary of their recommendations is annexed to their report.

The Banking Act 1979 draws a distinction between recognised banks and licensed deposit-takers. JMB was, and still is, a recognised bank.

Most of the Act's provisions, and of the Bank's powers set out in it, relate to licensed deposit-takers. The dual system of supervision has resulted. Licensed deposit-takers have been subject to a more rigorous regime of supervision, whereas the supervisors have relied heavily on the integrity and co-operation of the management of recognised banks.

With most banks, this confidence has not been misplaced, but the banking industry has expanded rapidly, and its activities have diversified. Recognised bank status - as we have seen with JMB - has not always guaranteed prudence and responsibility.

The committee recommends that the two-tier system be abolished and that the powers given to the Bank under the Act should apply to all authorised institutions. I accept this recommendation. The committee accepts that all authorised institutions should be subject to the same standards. In consequence, the committee has recommended that the Bank should have the power to require institutions to submit to it for inspection all their books and records. I also intend to tighten the criteria for

authorisation, including the minimum net assets required.

The second fundamental change recommended by the review committee concerns bank auditors. In this context, I am grateful to the Institutes of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and of Scotland for the co-operation they have afforded the committee. The committee recommends that there should in future be a regular dialogue between the supervisors and bank auditors. I strongly endorse this proposal.

A bank's auditors are uniquely placed to assess its control systems and assess its financial soundness. The accountability prevented by a duty of confidentiality to the client from passing information to the supervisors. At the same time, the supervisors are themselves inhibited by the Banking Act from communicating supervisory information to third parties without the institution's consent.

This is clearly an unsatisfactory state of affairs. It is in cases where this is not forthcoming that dialogue might be most necessary. That is why I accept the committee's recommendation that the constraints on contact between auditors and supervisors be removed.

I emphasise, however, that it is the directors and senior managers of banks who are responsible for the conduct of their business. They have duties both to depositors and to shareholders. This responsibility cannot be shifted off to auditors or supervisors.

The lesson of the JMB collapse is that banks must have in place adequate management and control systems. I therefore endorse the committee's suggestion that banks should appoint an audit committee and finance director where they do not already have them.

The committee has also made important recommendations on the staffing and organisation of the Bank's Supervision Division of the Bank of England.

The work of the Supervision Division has increased greatly in both complexity and volume in recent years, and the Bank of England needs to use banking staff more efficiently. In general it does a difficult job diligently and well. But

in the case of JMB the supervisors could not escape criticism for failing to respond more quickly to the danger signals.

The committee has recommended that the staff of the division would benefit from wider commercial experience; that there should be more secondments in both directions between the division and commercial banks; that a significant cadre of experienced long-term banking supervisors must be built up; and that there should be more professionally qualified accountants in the division. It has suggested that more staff are needed.

The Bank has already begun to implement these recommendations. The division is being strengthened both in numbers and in the range of expertise available. Some rearrangement of responsibilities has taken place within the division and further secondments to and from commercial banks have been arranged.

To provide advice at a senior level, Mr Sidney Procter, Chief Executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group, who retires from that position on September 30, has accepted the Governor's invitation to serve on a part-time basis as an adviser on banking supervisory issues.

JMB's failure stemmed directly from a number of large, related exposures. The committee recommends that the Bank should ensure that in future no exposure to a borrower, or to closely related borrowers, should exceed 25 per cent of the lender's capital base, other than in the most exceptional circumstances.

An effective system of banking supervision is essential not merely for the protection of depositors but for the financial health of the economy as a whole.

The review committee's report brings out very clearly the lessons to be learned from the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers. But more than that, it proposes a number of important changes to banking supervision in this country, which I am confident will greatly strengthen the system and make supervision of the banking sector much less likely to occur. I commend it to the House.

Kinnock accused of disregarding money

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, was criticised in the Commons by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, for never thinking where the money was going to come from to pay for social security benefits.

Mr Kinnock, in opening exchanges on state benefits, said: This week the Government announced changes which will reduce child benefit by £250 million, and take housing benefit away from 500,000 households.

Is this the kind of policy Mrs Thatcher had in mind when she said almost two years ago that this is the Government's commitment to the family?

Mrs Thatcher: We have put great emphasis on raising the tax thresholds which are particularly of benefit to families. We have raised tax thresholds far more than the Labour Government ever did.

Housing benefit which costs £4.2 billion this year, will go up after Mr Norman Fowler's announcement to £4.5 billion next year.

Mr Kinnock: All of that cost is simply because of the way the Government has pushed up unemployment and pushed up the rate of inflation. Does that kind of answer offer any comfort at all to the wife of an unemployed man with two children who has made a significant loss as a result of the Government's refusal to up-rate child benefit in line with inflation?

Which households are going to benefit as a result of the 500,000 households losing their housing benefit?

Mrs Thatcher: As a result of the total up-rating the working population will have to find some £2 billion extra. Mr Kinnock never

thinks where the money is going to come from.

Extra amount of child benefit will be going to families on low incomes.

Mr Kinnock: When the Prime Minister is taking £250 million away from families and only giving £29 million back, really her targeting is not working very well, is it?

I know where the money is coming from but where is the money going to? Is it going again to be given in tax cuts to the richest in society?

Mrs Thatcher: If one is taking an extra £2 billion out of national income, away from contributors and taxpayers to give to extra social security benefits, then it is not as if people many of whom are in need - an extra £2 billion.

Having read what Mr Kinnock said about the state earnings-related pension scheme, I do not think he is in any position to put accurate questions about social services.

Mr David Owen, Leader of the Social Democrats, family support has been social policy across income levels for decades. We are in danger of losing sight of the importance of the family if we only concentrate support on those most in need.

Mrs Thatcher: Dr Owen cannot have been listening to Mr Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services. Everyone will continue to receive child benefit. The standard rate is £7 a week for everyone with a family and that partly compensates for taking away the child allowance.

Every family will continue to receive it. Families who are worse off will receive more. We cannot give more without looking at the whole scheme. Our policy is the right one.

Dr Owen is trying to give the impression that child benefit is not going to every family. He is wrong.

Minister is hopeful on cereals deal

AGRICULTURE

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during Commons questions that he still did not rule out the possibility of the EEC Council of Ministers reaching a satisfactory agreement on cereal prices before August 1.

He was replying to questions on the European Commission agreeing on cuts in cereal prices for this year's harvest despite a West German veto on price cuts last week.

Mr Jopling said: "I am confident that the European Commission will reach a satisfactory agreement on cereal prices before August 1. I am confident that the European Commission will reach a satisfactory agreement on cereal prices before August 1. I am confident that the European Commission will reach a satisfactory agreement on cereal prices before August 1."

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Opposition silent on compensation

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Opposition peers were accused by the Earl of Gower, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, of following the union line by sitting on their hands and refusing to discuss compensation and redundancy terms for employees on abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties. He was speaking during the fifth day of the report stage in the House of Lords of the Local Government Bill.

His accusation came after Lord Rochester (Lib) did not wish to move an amendment in his name questioning entitlements to compensation or benefits to employees.

Lord Harnham-Nicholl (Con) said according to the rules anyone could move an amendment, and because of the importance of the subject, he would move it. He said there could be discussion.

The Earl of Gower said that after working 15 years in the House this was the first time he had become very slightly cynical.

It is quite astonishing (he said) that an amendment dealing with the terms and conditions of staff and personnel following reorganization of local government should attract no interest on the part of the official Opposition or from the Alliance benches.

The least those staff could have expected (he said) was that their representatives here in the House of Lords would speak for them. But as we have heard this afternoon, they have refused to do so. It is beyond my comprehension that the Alliance benches could align themselves to this kind of abuse of the procedure of the House.

The Government's door remains open to any union or employer who wants to discuss terms. The TUC local government committee was now discussing the issue which was all the more reason there should have been a debate in the House.

The amendment was withdrawn. We shall shortly issue proposals (he added later) on compensation for detriment with a view to consultation before incorporating them in the compensation regulations. If the unions and employers come to the negotiating table, they will find not us inflexible, but they must come soon and be ready to negotiate in earnest.

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No prima facie evidence of fraud uncovered

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, in questioning the Chancellor on his JMB statement, said the Opposition expected an early debate on this subject for it realised the most serious questions concerning the relationship between the banks and the Bank of England; the Bank of England and the Treasury; and the Treasury and the House of Commons.

He welcomed the proposed banking Bill to review the system of statutory regulation and said the Opposition would help the passage of a Bill which offered adequate safeguards and supervision.

Our cooperation depends (he said) on the inclusion of three essential ingredients:

First, the abolition of the two-tier system of supervision and the extension to the banks of the information requirement now placed on licensed deposit-takers.

Second, the power of the Bank of England, when it fears a bank collapse, to provide the information to other Government departments.

Third, the duty, not the right as recommended by the working party of auditors to warn the Bank of England if they have information about impending collapse.

That is all in the future and we will not agree that the history of this matter should be swept under the Bank of England's carpet.

Unless we fully understand and learn the lessons of this unhappy affair, new legislation will be no more successful than the old.

Why did the Bank of England not appoint an investigator under section 17 of the Banking Act of 1979 to investigate the collapse of the bank in the autumn of 1983 or early 1984, for it certainly knew JMB were moving into desperate difficulties?

The Chancellor tells us that when he made his statement to this House on December 17 he did not know of the £100 million loan to JMB. Does he now accept he should have known?

Perhaps more important, does he accept that when he found out, he should have told the House and the Treasury, and the Bank of England, and not Cotton Wood?

He cannot hide behind the fiction that the behaviour of the Bank of England is of no matter to him, nor can he take refuge behind a pretence that public money was not involved.

Why, of all the companies that the Government and its agents might have rescued, has this incompetent bank been singled out for special treatment? Why Johnson Matthey and not Cotton Wood?

Why JMB and not Stone Plant, the textile machinery company the Bank of England ditched in 1982?

With such a sorry tale of incompetence and concealment before him, does he still retain any confidence in the Governor of the Bank of England and does he expect us to retain any confidence in him?

Mr Lawson said the two-tier system was put in place by the then Labour Government against the Conservative Opposition's wishes at the time. It had proved to be a mistake, and they would certainly be changing it.

The Bank of England (he went on) did not on this occasion despite their excellent record in general in carrying out their duties of supervision - act as promptly as they should have done. They did to the credit of the Bank of England that there was persistent late reporting and mis-reporting by Johnson Matthey Bankers, so they were

provided with wholly inaccurate information.

On the £100 million loan, yes, I think I should have been told at the time. That is now accepted by the Governor and by the Bank of England generally.

The £150 million indemnity is in order to cover bad and doubtful loans. The £100 million has nothing to do with it. It is to provide JMB with effective working capital to continue past September 30, 1984, and it stands to be recovered in full when JMB is sold back to the private sector.

The Governor, exercising his responsibilities, decided that because of the risk to the London gold market - a very important market - and the effect on the banking system, he decided it was right to rescue it. I have the fullest confidence in the Governor of the Bank of England.

This is not the first occasion that a bank has collapsed and a rescue operation mounted. The Opposition and the House will recall clearly the secondary banking crisis some ten years ago and the operations mounted by the then Governor of the Bank of England, backed by the then Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey.

No information of the kind contained in the Governor's report to the House and which I have given, no action of tightening up of banking supervision, no intention of that kind, was offered to the House at that time.

Mr William Clark (Croydon South, Con) said he questioned the point that a bank should not expose itself to a borrower in a series of borrowings connected for more than 25 per cent of their capital. Surely this figure was far too high?

Mr Lawson said there was a flexible

discretionary system of banking supervision. He did not propose that it should be replaced with a set of rigid rules; such rules did not stop banks collapsing in the United States.

The 25 per cent figure was an upper limit, a guideline, and did not mean that there might not be circumstances where the supervisory authority would say this was not a prudent use of capital.

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MPs urge drive to give drug addicts chance of better help

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

Treatment and rehabilitation services for Britain's swelling number of hard-drug addicts, now estimated at over 100,000, are woefully inadequate, the Commons Social Services Select Committee said yesterday.

Unless immediate action is taken to increase funding and specialist staff, hundreds of addicts will die over the next few years, it said.

In a highly critical report, the all-party committee concluded: "Treatment facilities are few, underfunded, often inaccessible and always with long waiting lists. Rehabilitation is provided, if at all, by voluntary organizations unable to plan ahead for lack of secure funding. Experienced staff are in very short supply."

"Drug misusers and their families do not know where to turn for help. General medical and social services are too often unable or unwilling to become involved. Many drug users end up in prison where they are likely to receive no help at all."

The MPs - who said there was little sense of direction in the Government preventive efforts - insisted that ministers

Drugs on tap in jails

Jailed addicts have little incentive to give up drugs because supplies are easily obtained inside, the MPs said.

In Britain's remand centres, where there were 100 notified heroin misusers in 1984, addicts refused to be admitted to the prison hospital for treatment "since in the main part of the prison they can readily obtain heroin and the means to inject it."

The report quoted the Prison Medical Association which says it was difficult to initiate treatment and rehabilitation in long-term prisons "where uncontrolled drink and drugs are so readily available."

The Association of Police Surgeons confirmed that when an addict is sent to prison, "he will be able to, in most circumstances, continue with drug abuse."

The MPs condemned the absence of even rudimentary services for prisoners with a history of drug abuse, in the City of London, where it is his personal custody and after release. "Our policy that is in the greatest concern is that the time so many addicts spend in custody represents a wasted opportunity for tackling the problem of their addiction."

Mr. Banks said the long-term failed strategy for the coordinated number of agencies in development and maintenance of services for drug misusers. "New money will be needed and projects of proven worth must be guaranteed adequate funding. Training facilities for specialist staff of all disciplines must be increased greatly," they said.

"Drugs misusers can be helped to come off, and stay off drugs. There are a number of examples of service which work. Drug misuse can be tackled but only if expressions of concern are matched by action."

The MPs specifically recommended the Government to

set up a National Drug Advisory Service, draw up national guidelines for regional and district health authorities to develop framework of services for drug misusers and create a central financial fund to which regions can apply for aid.

There are only 35 specialist drug dependency units in Britain and most have long waiting lists. Patients may have to wait weeks or even months before gaining an initial appointment.

Most of the centres are concentrated in and around London and "for many people living in many parts of the country there may not be a specialist unit within a hundred miles", the report said.

The MPs added that medical treatment of drugs addicts was given low priority because of the stigma attached to drugs and because their misuse was self-inflicted.

"We do not refuse treatment to drug addicts where it is caused by smoking cigarettes, nor to heart patients suffering as a result of over-indulgence. It is intolerable that those few specialist facilities that are available should have to battle even to maintain their services."

Among other proposals put forward are that every regional health authority should have at least one fully staffed specialist treatment facility and should examine the staffing levels of existing drug dependence units and that the Department of Health and Social Security should seek a nationwide report on the buildings in which staff and patients operate "in view of the evident inadequacy of some premises."

Most GPs have very little experience of drug misusers and, the report says, it is essential they have the support of an experienced community psychiatric nurse and liaison with social services if they are to provide an adequate service for addicts.

In an attempt to encourage doctors to treat such patients, the MPs suggested that the Government should examine the feasibility of making extra payments to GPs who undergo specialist training in dealing with addicts and who provide treatment.

The main increase in drug misuse and demand for treatment had not been matched by an increase in specialist doctors. "A few dozen doctors, primarily psychiatrists, are striving to provide a service for 10,000 notified addicts which was designed for briefly 1,000."

Immediate action should be taken to establish senior registrar posts in several drug dependence units to ensure that there were sufficient experienced doctors to cope with treatment needs over the next decade.

There is also a shortage of nurses, and a report recommended central funding for specialist courses on drug treatment.

House of Commons Social Services Select Committee. *Misuse of Drugs: which special reference to the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Misusers of hard drugs.* (Stationery Office: £11.20)



Robert Mitchum's latest film, now being produced for the Columbia Broadcasting System's television network, will be a family affair. As well as Mr Mitchum (centre) it will feature his son Christopher (left) and grandson Bentley, seen here on the set.

Gandhi to meet Colombo opposition

From Our Correspondent

Colombo

Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and president of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, and her son Mr Anura Bandaranaike, leader of the Opposition, will go

to Delhi next month to meet Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, for talks on the island's ethnic crisis.

Mr Bandaranaike said that the SLFP will not be taking any new proposals but will stress that any proposal from the

Government should be put to the people at a referendum or a general election. Earlier Mr Bandaranaike said any proposals must be tested at a general election while the Government said it would be put to a referendum.

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Peking cracks down on football louts and the black market

Peking (Renter) - Peking

with an anxious eye on its

image as a tourist city, announced an

new public order campaign yesterday to stamp

out football hooliganism, ticket

touts, black market currency

deals and illegal dance parties.

The Peking Daily said Communist Party and civic

authorities had met leaders of city organizations to ram home

the need for tighter public discipline.

It said the authorities would launch a special drive in July

and August to improve order in sports stadiums and gymnasia, theatres and cinemas, shops and markets and tourist spots.

The newspaper said Peking was China's window for foreigners and visitors, adding: "Leading comrades from the party, Government and Army at different levels should understand the necessity and importance for an improvement in

public order."

The new drive follows last month's Peking riot when

hundreds of soccer fans stoned buses, overturned cars and

assaulted foreigners after Hong Kong eliminated China from the World Cup.

The Peking Communist Party and municipal authorities listed five targets for the two-month clampdown. These included ticket touts for sporting events, railway, theatre and cinema tickets and a purge of black market currency dealers.

There would also be a crackdown on pornographic video tapes, illegal dance parties, and disturbances in public places or those damaging public property.

PRAGUE: Police detained 30 soccer fans after a rampage of vandalism on a train headed for a match in Bansky Bystrica, the Communist Party newspaper reported yesterday (AP reports).

Stadium errors alleged

Brussels (AP) - The parliamentary panel investigating the

riots that killed 38 people before the May 29 European Cup Final heard more testimony yesterday

about lapses in security at the Heysel Stadium.

Testifying on the third day of the panel's hearings, Mr Georges Poels, the Chief of Police in Brussels, said the aisles separating the fenced-in stands were

too narrow to permit an effective security operation against violence by soccer supporters.

"It was impossible to contain an attack from one section or another from the narrow separating spaces", he told the nine members of the parliamentary commission.

One hour before the Juventus-Liverpool match 38 people, mostly Italians, were killed and 454 were injured

Aids tests for every blood donor in France

From Diana Geddes

Paris

France has decided to follow the example of the United States and require every blood donor to undergo a test for

Aids. The exercise is expected to cost 200 million francs (£16.5 million) in a full year.

The virus disease Aids, for which there is at present no known cure, spread to France at the beginning of last year. There are now 343 known Aids victims in France, and with the present rate of growth that number is expected to reach 2,000 by 1987. It can be transmitted by blood, and therefore constitutes a real danger for anyone given a blood transfusion.

Announcing the Government's decision to require compulsory tests, M. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, said it had not yet been decided whether a blood donor whose tests showed he was carrying the Aids virus should be told he was at risk.

Only about 10 per cent of those carrying the virus were likely to contract the disease, M. Fabius said, and he asked if it was right that they should be perhaps unnecessarily worried when the risk was relatively small.

The National Ethical Committee, set up by the Government to give advice on medical ethics, had recommended that Aids carriers should be informed.

British business has been waiting for a digital telephone exchange that can be installed and working in 24 hours.

Here it is!

One working day. That's all it takes for us to deliver, install and get our revolutionary Compact MD 110 ready for connection to your existing wiring.

Which makes much more sense than having your business disrupted and your communications chaotic for as much as a month. Or even more.

With the Compact MD 110, you'll have an advanced modular system which can be expanded and enhanced to meet your company's needs for years to come. Each exchange unit is designed for 100 to 180 extension lines. Whenever

more capacity is needed, another unit can be added to the system on the same site or at another location.

There's a comprehensive range of telephones to suit the needs of each extension user. And as you'd expect from Thorn Ericsson - a leader in telecommunications - the system offers all the sophisticated features you could wish for.

The Compact MD 110 is manufactured in the United Kingdom and based on the established technology of our

internationally marketed MD 110 digital telephone system. It sets a new standard in cost effectiveness and efficiency. Starting from the moment it arrives.

For a brochure, or more information about the Compact MD 110, please contact John Hudson, our Commercial Manager, simply dial 100 and ask for FREEPHONE THORN ERICSSON.

THORN ERICSSON

Thorn Ericsson Telecommunications Limited, Room No. 1, Viking House, Foundry Lane, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5QF



compact
MD 110

Car chief's warning over sales

By Clifford Webb

MERSEYSIDE

HELP—DON'T HINDER!



With a quarter of Merseysiders totally dependent on State Benefits, and employment, the lifeblood of the region, still draining away, Merseyside has enormous social and economic problems.

Over recent years Merseyside County Council has tried to tackle these problems. Although at times it seemed like King Canute's trying to stem the tide, there have been successes and progress.

Merseyside County Council's Economic Development Office, MERCEDO, is dealing continually with requests for advice, information and financial aid needed to set up new companies. The Council's schemes of financial assistance, since they were first introduced, have helped to create or have saved more than 10,000 jobs.

In less than 2 years, Merseyside County Council's Enterprise Board has helped retain or create over 700 jobs, and secured a further £1 million in Government and private sector support. And many previously unemployed Merseysiders are now in permanent full-time jobs as a direct result of their training courses which are specifically geared to the needs of modern industry and commerce.

By aiding and encouraging the growth of new business in Merseyside and the development of existing companies, Merseyside County Council are constantly trying to create new jobs for the unemployed and new opportunities for our young people.

BUT IT'S NOT ONLY EMPLOYMENT

Merseyside County Council are helping Liverpool Airport take off in Europe and were involved in the negotiations which have helped to ensure the future of racing at Aintree. Over 3 years they secured investment of more than £300,000 for landscaping and improvements in and around the course and for sponsorship of events. All these are aimed at bringing back jobs to Merseyside by recognising its assets!

Merseyside County Council have been responsible for many other important tourism initiatives which have helped boost the region's

employment and economy.

Without the County Council, the Merseyside Maritime Museum and the spectacular Cutty Sark 'Tall Ships' Races in 1984 — an event which attracted over 1 million people — might never have been launched (nor would the Adelphi Hotel have been restored).

Merseyside County Council has shown that it has the ability to be innovative and entrepreneurial and to work closely with a variety of parties in the interests of our region.

Few in Merseyside believe that the District Councils would collaborate to provide one organisation which would make sense for the entire area.

WHAT DO MERSEYSIDERS THINK?

A recent MORI Survey showed that 91% agreed that spending money to create or maintain jobs on Merseyside was a vital service.



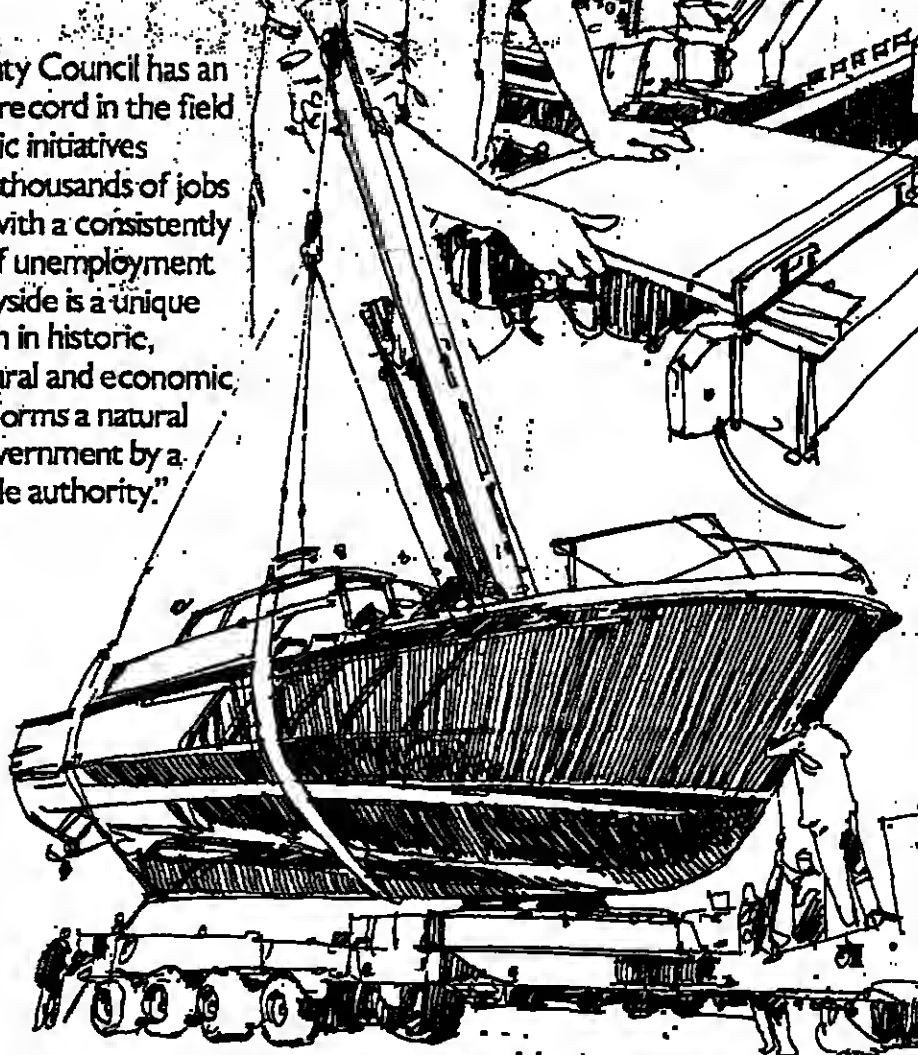
The Merseyside Enterprise Forum is in absolute agreement.

The Forum is a broadly-based, independent voluntary body which brings together senior representatives from industry and commerce, national bodies and government agencies, trade unions, local government and leaders of the community. It is a non-political organisation and one which is believed to be unique in this country.



It said:

"The County Council has an impressive record in the field of economic initiatives generating thousands of jobs in an area with a consistently high level of unemployment. . . . Merseyside is a unique conurbation in historic, social, cultural and economic terms and forms a natural area for government by a County-wide authority."



THE LIVERPOOL ECHO SUMMED UP THE FEELING OF MANY IN A RECENT EDITORIAL COMMENT:

"If any thought was devoted to what would replace the Councils, the result reflects no credit on those who designed the proposals. . . . The Government should decide now on its action — and that is to withdraw the Bill. It is ill-conceived

as Parliament has been demonstrating. Even more important, it is totally out of tune with public feeling."

SOURCE: Liverpool Echo Tuesday 11th June, 1985.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY TAKING NO NOTICE

"Nothing that has been said alters our conviction that the GLC and the Metropolitan Counties . . ." (including Merseyside County Council) . . . are an unnecessary tier of Government. They have little to do and much of what they do involves interference with or duplication of the activities of the really local authorities — the boroughs and districts." Not a shred of evidence has been produced to justify this claim.

This illustration shows just a few examples of the successes and progress achieved by Merseyside County Council including the visit of the Cutty Sark 'Tall Ships' Races and the redevelopment of Liverpool Airport.

Further acknowledgements to: Merseyside Enterprise Board, Beale City, Aintree Racecourse, AMP Marine, 'Brookside' and Wrenworth Furniture.

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL PROVIDES OR SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT SERVICES:

- Buses ■ Merseyrail
- Ferries ■ Police
- Fire Service
- Consumer Protection
- Tourism Development
- Empire Theatre
- Philharmonic
- Art Galleries ■ Museums
- Croxteth and Speke Halls
- Liverpool Airport
- Probation Service
- Planning
- Roads & Bridges
- Protecting the Environment
- Waste Disposal
- Economic Development.

Merseysiders know that the very last thing which Merseyside needs now is fragmentation, disunity or wasteful competition between members of the same community.

The Government's proposals bring with them unacceptable fragmentation, a very high degree of centralisation from Whitehall and unnecessary duplication.

We believe, that before steps are taken to sweep away local democracy and with it years of progress in tackling Merseyside's special problems, there should be, even at this stage, a full, fair and independent inquiry into what is proposed and the effect those proposals will have on Merseyside.

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?



Merseyside County Council
THE VOICE OF REASON FOR MERSEYSIDE

This advertisement is published by Merseyside Economic Development Company Ltd.

Norwegian spied for KGB and Iraq for 10 years

Ex-Diplomat goes to jail for 20 years and loses the £60,000 he was paid

From Knut Falchenberg, Oslo

The former Norwegian diplomat and deputy minister, Mr. Arne Treholt, was found guilty yesterday of espionage on behalf of the KGB and the Iraq intelligence service over a period of almost ten years. He was given the maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment. In addition, the three professional and four lay judges ordered that \$52,000 (£39,000) be confiscated from a Swiss bank account, along with a further \$60,000 which the court decided he had been paid by his sponsors. He also has to pay \$10,000 court costs.

Sanctions warning for South Africa

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The UN Security Council has warned South Africa that it faces mandatory sanctions if it continues to obstruct a settlement leading to independence for Namibia. It has asked countries to consider immediate voluntary measures to provide Pretoria with a taste of things to come.

In doing so the council has seized on a theme of growing popularity that forced Britain and the US to abstain on a resolution that the Reagan Administration, in particular, would have blocked in the past. Yet, although the council action reflected the mainstream of international opinion, it enjoyed little support from the most unlikely of quarters.

For African countries overwhelmed by drought and famine, and especially the frontline states, whose economies are tied inextricably to South Africa's sanctions have become anathema. They fear that an economic embargo, before having any tangible effect on South Africa, would strike hard at their own weaker economies.

Speaker after African speaker inveighed against South Africa. But for months the African group at the UN has failed to respond in any practical way to the confrontation between Pre-

his leading officers in Oslo, New York, Helsinki, Vienna, Paris and Athens.

In assessing the damage, the court found it most serious that Mr Treholt had given Soviet and Iraqi agents access to Norwegian defence plans for the northern flank of Nato for information. He had received while a civilian student at a military academy in Norway from 1983 to 1984.

At that time he was already under investigation by Norwegian intelligence, but was admitted to the academy by special order from the Minister of Defence. It was believed an admission refusal would have aroused his suspicion, thus impeding the investigation.

Mr Treholt's rapid rise in Norwegian politics is explained by his close co-operation with a former Minister of Trade, and later Minister for the Law of the Seas, Mr Jens Evensen. As a left-wing activist in the Labour Party, Mr Treholt rose through government posts in the 1970s, holding such positions as personal secretary to the Minister of Trade in 1973, a similar position at the Ministry of Law of the Seas the following year and, from 1976 to 1978, he held the rank of deputy minister giving him

access to Cabinet documents.

The court said in the 255 pages of judgement, that Mr Treholt had loyally followed instructions given to him by various KGB contacts.

The meetings between Soviet diplomats and the then young Labour Party activist, had started in all innocence in 1971. Gradually, the restaurant invitations took a conspiratorial form. What began as small favours to the Russians, such as buying and then distributing a book from his local bookshop, ended as a conspiracy in which Mr Treholt furnished his Soviet contacts with documents either hidden in newspapers or discreetly handed over during lunches. Mr Treholt himself, has claimed that he acted only as an unorthodox diplomat, trying to enhance the contact between east and west in an unusual manner.

He was acquitted on only one of the charges - this related to an alleged attempt to help Iraq intelligence recruit other Norwegian agents. His activities on behalf of the Soviet KGB and Iraq, are considered to have been quite separate engagements.

Only sections of the court's judgement were read in open session.



Arne Treholt: Close to tears as he hears the verdict

Secrets that were lost

Information Mr Treholt was accused of passing to KGB and, in some cases, Iraqi intelligence agents, includes the following (AP reports):

● 1974: Norwegian Defence Ministry information on Nato mobile forces and their deployment.

● 1976: Defence Ministry information on the strategic importance of Iceland and its security policies.

● 1976 to 1978: Contents of Foreign Ministry notes on American proposals for production of "certain types of weapons" unless the Soviet Union did not deploy other types of weapons, not specified in the incident.

● 1983: Defence College information about northern garrisons, attack goals, lines of advance and deployment of support weapons.

Communist pickets clash with police in Spanish strike

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Communist-led trade unions successfully staged yesterday the first general strike to be held since the beginning of democracy in 1977.

The 24-hour stoppage, which disrupted public transport, industry and the press, was particularly effective in Madrid's industrial belt, Barcelona, the Asturias mining region, Galicia and the Basque country.

The strike against the Socialist Government, was marked by violence from well-organized Communist pickets, who clashed with the police in several places. The Interior Ministry said there had been more than 100 arrests throughout the country, including several provincial Communist union leaders.

With the pro-Socialist trade unions boycotting the strike call, the turnout neatly underlined the Communist mobilizing power over working classes now disillusioned with the Government's economic policy.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, was visiting The Netherlands yesterday to try to ensure that the Dutch Parliament ratifies in time Spain's EEC entry, scheduled for next January.

The strike was directed principally against Señor Joaquín Almunia, the Labour and Social Affairs Minister, for his Bill to reform the state social security and pensions system. On television he said, how-

Shuttle will try again to carry out laser test

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The shuttle Discovery yesterday prepared to study the theory of black holes in space, after the embarrassing bungle of its first Stars Wars laser experiment.

Wednesday's laser test failed because Discovery was 180 degrees out of position to receive the Air Force laser signal beamed at it from the Hawaiian island of Maui. Officials at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said another attempt would be made tomorrow.

A harmless, low-powered green laser beam was fired from an Air Force station on Maui. The beam struck the shuttle but on the opposite side from the 8in mirror mounted in a hatch window, which was meant to reflect the beam back to Hawaii for analysis.

Officials conceded that it was possibly one of the worst navigating mistakes in more than 20 years of American manned space flight. They blamed a "ground-based accounting error".

The shuttle's computer was given the altitude in feet instead of nautical miles, so that Discovery was positioned far forward instead of nose forward.

The experiment is to discover whether laser weapons would bounce their beams off bigger orbiting mirrors in strike and destroy hostile satellites.

The condemned cell?



And today modern technology is enabling us to identify and understand more and more of these factors that cause cancer.

(A cell like this, for example, can now be studied in minute detail, even though it measures only 1/10,000 of an inch across.)

Learning more helps us detect cancer earlier.

And the earlier we can detect it, the more effectively we can treat it.

Already, for example, an effective programme of smear tests could make a once deadly cancer almost totally preventable.

Other research has given doctors over thirty effective anti-cancer drugs, and has made surgery and radio-therapy increasingly successful.

In many cancers, in fact, the survival rate has improved dramatically.

So it is no idle boast to say that thanks to cancer research, many cancer cells are now already condemned.

How can you help?

We are Britain's largest cancer research charity, and over one third of all cancer research in this country is supported by us.

But to continue our present work and start urgent new work takes a vast amount of money.

So your support is vital.

You can help with a deed of covenant, a legacy or a donation, by writing to us at Dept T121/6, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR.

Or by getting in touch with your local Cancer Research Campaign committee through the telephone directory.

Sooner or later, we'll condemn cancer once and for all.

You can make it sooner.

the disease can be controlled and sometimes stopped altogether.

Because of this, over 60,000 cancer sufferers now recover each year, and return to a normal, healthy life.

Sadly, though, many thousands are less fortunate.

And it is to help them that we need your money for more research.

How is research helping to find an answer?

Thanks to research we already know a great deal about cancer.

We know, for example, that eight out of ten cancers are caused by our lifestyle and environment through things like cigarettes, asbestos, radiation and certain chemicals.

We also know that viruses, certain genes and our diet can play a part.

Cancer Research Campaign

There's still a long way to go, but together we can beat cancer.



Is cancer still the death sentence people think? Or are we finally learning how to destroy cancer itself?

The human cell above is out of control.

Instead of reproducing in a normal orderly manner this one is multiplying relentlessly.

Gradually the extra cells being produced will form a tumour.

And eventually some will split off, spreading to other parts of the body and creating secondary cancers which will damage or destroy vital organs.

This is cancer.

And not too long ago it was little short of a death sentence in all but a few cases.

Today, however, things are beginning to change.

In some cases, for example, delinquent cells like the one above can be detected early on in their career. And eradicated before they're able to form a tumour.

In others the relentless growth and dangerous spread of

Five bombs explode in Kathmandu

Kathmandu (AP, Reuters) - A Member of the Nepalese Parliament was killed and 19 people were injured yesterday when five bombs exploded in the capital. They shattered glass areas at the royal palace, Parliament House and an adjacent hotel lobby, police said. The explosions came within a few minutes of each other.

Three other legislators were injured, a police inspector said. Another 16 people were taken to hospital with injuries suffered in the explosion at the lobby of the Annapurna hotel, partly owned by the royal palace.

The explosions came one day after King Birendra, addressing the National Assembly, said his people were determined to discourage any "attempt to undermine peace and order" in Nepal.

In a warning to political opponents demanding a revival of Western-style democracy, the King said it was "the burden of duty" of all supporters, "to counter those who seek to create an atmosphere of instability in the country by spreading unnecessary confusion about the system chosen by the people themselves in free exercise of their will."

Cocaine lab found in Miami flat

Miami Beach, Florida (AP) - A building inspector discovered a cocaine laboratory in a nine-story apartment house on Wednesday, and about 1,000 people were temporarily evacuated because the lab contained volatile chemicals.

Police later safely detonated 100 gallons of the chemicals - alcohol, acetone and ether - on a beach five blocks away.

Three men were arrested and 90 pounds of cocaine were found in a van and an apartment, a Miami Beach Police spokesman said. Also found in the apartment were scales, chesscloth and measuring instruments.

The unidentified building inspector was on a routine check when he smelled strong ether fumes on the eighth floor. The inspector then helped police apprehend three men who fled in a van, but were later arrested after they became involved in a traffic accident.

"It's extremely volatile material... if this were to ignite, it would have a more devastating effect than a car bomb in Beirut," Detective Tom Hoolahan said. "They ran around hanging on everybody's door as hard as they could, getting everybody out," said Tami Dunmore, aged 19, who lives a block behind the cocaine lab.

California convict tells of prison battleground

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

"Warlike" conditions exist in California's notorious Folsom prison, so much so that there have been 120 stabbings in the castle-like maximum-security jail this year, state legislators heard.

Witnesses of the overcrowded prison testified at a hearing at Folsom on Wednesday as lawmakers began investigating escalating violence at the 105-year-old building.

The past three years have been insanity here," Robert Darcy, who is serving a

sentence for kidnapping, said. Violence in the jail had created warlike conditions, with black and Mexican-American gangs fighting over prison "turf".

"Lockdowns" of inmates - when they are confined to their cells all day) have lasted for weeks.

In the California prison system as a whole there were 5,000 incidents of assault, drug possession and other serious crimes behind bars. In one day at Folsom, eight inmates were stabbed in gang clashes.

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Nato promised role in US decision to build chemical weapons

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Britain and other European members of Nato will play a decisive role in determining whether the Reagan Administration will be able to resume production of chemical weapons after a break of 16 years.

The House of Representatives, which has rejected Administration requests for funds to resume production through-out President Reagan's first term, voted 229 to 196 on Wednesday in favour of building new weapons using a binary nerve-gas system.

These weapons contain two relatively harmless substances which become toxic only when mixed. However, the Democratic-controlled House attached a number of conditions to the legislation authorizing resumption of production. One bars the release of funds until Nato has agreed formally that its chemical weapons stocks need modernizing and that binary weapons could be stored within the territory of European members of the alliance.

Nato has not supported renewed production of chemical weapons in the past and Mr Les Aspin (Democrat, Wisconsin), Chairman of the House armed services committee said this could cause considerable problems for the Administration.

However, it is possible the Nato condition could be modified, or even dropped altogether, when the legislation goes before

a Senate-House conference committee later this summer.

The Administration had to make several other concessions before the House was prepared to approve resumption of chemical weapons production. It stipulated that the money to produce the weapon cannot be spent until the end of 1987, at which point the President would have to certify that it was needed. In addition, the two chemicals eventually combined in the weapon must be stored in separate states.

The House vote, which came after heavy lobbying by the White House, is a big victory for President Reagan. The Senate approved renewed production at the end of last month.

Chemical weapons are the only big part of the President's defence modernization programme which Congress has consistently voted against.

● LONDON: Chemicals used in weapons fall into four broad groups: those which act on the nervous system or the blood, and those which cause choking or blistering (Rodney Cowton writes).

There is potentially a large range of materials which can be used. Among the better-known chemical agents which can be used in weapons are: Phosgene: a choking agent which floods the lungs;

Hydrogen cyanide: interferes with the use of oxygen by the body;

Sulphur mustard: a blister agent which destroys tissues; Tabun, Sarin, Soman, VX: Highly lethal agents which act on the nervous system, causing paralysis.

● BONN: West German MPs, reacting to the House of Representatives decision, called on Bonn to refuse to store any more US-made chemical weapons (AP reports).

Chancellor Kohl should "declare that there is no question of storage (of chemical weapons) on German soil", said Herr Olaf Feldmann, a member of the Free Democrats, the partners in the coalition government.

On Wednesday, the opposition Social Democrats had joined East German officials in calling for a chemical weapons-free zone in central Europe as a first step to a world ban.

● GENEVA: Mr Viktor Isaryan, a top Soviet disarmament official, said the US decision was a "new, dangerous step".

"This decision dealt a new blow which could cause irreparable damage" to international efforts to negotiate a treaty banning chemical weapons. He is chief Soviet delegate to a Geneva disarmament conference.



Australians Steven and Belinda Guerrero, aged five and three, had less than 15 minutes to live when they and their Portuguese mother (in the spotted dress) were snapped by an amateur photographer in Frankfurt airport. Shortly afterwards a bomb exploded, killing them and badly injuring their mother.

Photo could hold clue to bomber's identity

From Our Correspondent Bonn

West German television viewers last night saw a photograph, taken about half an hour before the explosion, of almost the exact spot in the Frankfurt airport international departure hall where the bomb was placed on Wednesday.

Police spokesman said that some of the people in the picture may be among the victims, since not all had been identified.

The photograph was from a roll of film taken by a German from Kassel who was trying out his camera. It will appear in West German newspapers today over an appeal for people in the photograph to come forward and say what they can remember seeing when it was taken.

Police think it unlikely that the picture actually shows the terrorist, although half an hour would have been time enough for someone to plant a bomb and walk away.

A Portuguese traveller said yesterday that, just after the blast, he saw a man get into a blue Mercedes near the departure hall and drive off at high speed, leaving skid marks which police experts examined.

The possibly-vital photograph shows about 10 recognizable people. Originally it was thought that the bomb went off in a litter bin, but police now say it was in a container on the floor.

The three people killed were a boy, aged 5, and a girl, aged 3, both Australian citizens of Portuguese origin, and a Portuguese man.

Rival says Mugabe ordered her death

Harare (AP) - A veteran Zimbabwe Opposition leader, Mrs Ruth Chinamano, yesterday accused the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, of ordering her assassination after she was attacked in a barrage of stones that left three supporters injured.

Mrs Chinamano, aged 60, was attacked at a meeting in the Harare suburb of Highfields in the run-up to Zimbabwe's first post-independence elections scheduled for July 1-2.

Contesting the constituency against Mr Mugabe, she said. The candidate I am standing against... has instructed people to bring him Ruth Chinamano's head."

Diaries trial verdict soon

Hamburg - A lawyer for Herr Gerd Heidemann, the former Stern magazine reporter accused of fraud in the Hitler Diaries trial, yesterday closed his case by saying that it had proved that his client knew the diaries were forged (Frank Johnson writes).

Herr Heidemann and Herr Konrad Kajan, a dealer in Nazi memorabilia, are accused of fraudulently obtaining money for the diaries. The verdict is expected on July 8.

Surgeon charged

Washington (Reuters) - Commander Donald Billig, aged 54, former chief heart surgeon at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of four patients and 22 charges of dereliction of duty. The hospital treats President Reagan and top officials.

Nato promotion

Brussels (AP) - US Lieutenant-General Thomas Healy, aged 53, has been named Chief of Staff at Nato's command centre for Southern Europe, in charge of Italy, Greece, Turkey, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, largest of Nato's four military regions.

Witness dies

Nairobi (AFP) - Mr Ayres Lourenco Ribeiro, a Kenyan police pathologist and a key witness in the trial over the murder of Mr Horace Oviat, an MP backed to death on May 27, died in an air crash yesterday. He is the second key witness to die suddenly.

Uganda walkout

Kampala (AP) - Twenty-seven members of the Opposition walked out of Parliament as President Obote began his budget speech, in protest at the deaths of "hundreds of thousands" of Ugandans since he took power in 1980.

Journalists free

Colombo - Simon Winchester, a Sunday Times journalist, and photographer Peter Dunne, who were detained by the Sri Lanka Army at Muller, near Trincomalee on Tuesday, have been freed. Their passports have been seized by the police.

Peace man dies

Bangkok (Reuters) - Mr Xuan Thuy, former North Vietnamese foreign minister who led the delegation which ended the Vietnam war, has died. He was 73.

Pirate gold

Bangkok (AP) - The UN refugee agency has given Thailand \$1.65 million to continue a programme to suppress piracy against Vietnamese refugees in the Gulf of Thailand.

Killer floods

Delhi (AFP) - Rain and floods have killed more than 30 people in two states on opposite sides of India - Maharashtra and Assam - since Sunday and made at least 60,000 homeless.

Times' ban

Valletta - The Times is the only foreign newspaper banned from sale in Malta, the Foreign Minister, Dr Alex Sciberras Triguera, told Parliament.

Chinese get briefing on Star Wars

Peking (Reuters) - A US Star Wars team briefed Chinese officials yesterday about President Reagan's space-based defence programme and said they had passed on information about Soviet weapons research.

The six-member US delegation, headed by Mr Robert Lihart, a senior arms control specialist, met for about four hours with about 50 Chinese officials, specialists and military analysts.

American officials said the meeting was part of a series of briefings for allies, friends and some other countries, including the Soviet Union, about the President's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

"We want to ensure there are no surprises for friends, interested parties or the Soviets," one official said. He said that the US team outlined the objectives of the planned \$26 billion (£20 billion) SDI, dubbed by the media the Star Wars programme, emphasizing that it was solely a research programme.

Bonn keeps cool on Pershing verdict

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The West German Government and Nato seemed to be staying reasonably calm yesterday in the face of a ruling on Wednesday by a Frankfurt court which tries minor cases, that Pershing 2 missiles were stationed here illegally.

On the basis of this novel interpretation of the Federal Republic's constitution, six "peace campaigners" who took part in a sit-in at a US Army supply depot near Frankfurt were acquitted of charges of obstruction and trespass.

The verdict raised the spirits of the "peace movement", whose morale has been low since it failed to prevent cruise and Pershing missiles being stationed here last year. It also gave right-wing opinion an opportunity to indulge in outrage. Herr Axel Springer's newspapers thought it a scandal.

The Government and the US Air Force Command here did not seem to be frightened that the missiles might soon have to be sent packing.

This relaxed approach was

the result of the court's relatively humble status in the country's impeccably balanced legal system. It is unlikely that higher courts, judging more serious offences connected with opposition to cruise and Pershing, would come to the same conclusion as the Frankfurt justices.

In any case, the highest court in the country - the Constitutional Court at Karlsruhe - has already ruled that the presence of the missiles on German soil is legal.

The Frankfurt court decided that the stationing was contrary to clauses in the constitution of 1949 which call for efforts to be made towards the reunification of Germany. West Germany, and Nato, would argue that any war launched from German soil would not be aggression, but a response to aggression.

None the less, the Frankfurt ruling will be studied by West Germany's friends, and enemies, to see whether it offers any proof of that incipient neutralism which many observers are continually discerning.

Ramadan car blast kills 60

Tripoli (AP) - Rescue teams yesterday clawed through the wreckage of a seaside sweet shop devastated by a car bomb that killed at least 60 men, women and children as they celebrated the end of Islam's fasting month of Ramadan.

Police said only 29 of the bodies recovered, many of them badly mutilated and burned, had been identified following the bombing on Wednesday night in Lebanon's second city, 40 miles north of Beirut.

The death toll could go higher as searchers seek bodies of victims hurled into the Mediterranean by the blast.

Mr Abdul Khader, director of Tripoli's Islamic Hospital, biggest of the city's five medical centres, said: "We have received at least 48 corpses and more than 60 wounded here alone." Many of the casualties were women and children.

The mood of America

Stamping, chanting defiance to a world that picks on US

From Michael Binyon, Indianapolis

The build-up was eerie and uncomfortably reminiscent of another era in another country. They waited impatiently, row on row of big, beer-bellied men, red tee-shirts proclaiming their state allegiance or such macho philosophies as "I'm a hell fighter".

gripping American flags as patriotic weapons and punching the air in choruses with booming staccato slogans.

Then the stamping started, rhythmic, prolonged, amplified by whistles, and clapping that echoed round a cavernous convention centre built to encourage orchestrated adulation.

"What is about to happen is something you will tell your grandchildren about in years to come," announced the chairman of the Jay Cees - America's small business federation. "I give you a man who has pulled this country from the gloom and doom of the seventies into the sunshine of the eighties. If you believe in America, if you believe in leadership, then you've got to believe in Ronald Reagan."

And there he was, the familiar jaunty wave, the smile that is warmed by acclaim, as he came on stage flanked by the ever-present bodyguards. "Hail to the chief," was drowned by the raucous cacophony of applause.

With a single gesture there was silence. "Thank you," the President said. "Thank you."

And then he started with a disarming one-liner that is the hallmark of a man who knows by training and instinct how to work an audience. "Feeling your enthusiasm shake this hall, I could only think 'I've found it, I'm in a Hoosier heaven.' The flattery of the nickname for Indiana citizens brought more stamping.

He had, of course, come to Indianapolis to talk about tax reform, another stop on his crusade to whip up enthusiasm for "the biggest job creation Bill in history."

But, as he knew, that was not the issue on everyone's mind. "Let me say," he began, grave, sombre, deliberate. "Let me say, we must not yield to the terrorist demands that invite more terrorism. We cannot reward their grisly deeds. We will not cave in."

"USA, USA, USA, USA,"

Sky marshals reinforced

By Our Foreign Staff

As airlines search for new measures to combat air piracy, President Reagan ordered yesterday an immediate increase in the numbers of sky marshals who fly on American aircraft to prevent hijacking.

International attention is being focused on the rigid procedures pioneered by El-Al, Israel's national carrier - widely acknowledged as being, with good reason, the world's most security-conscious airline.

Although the Israeli concern has regularly employed at least two armed sky marshals on its international flights for many years, this is not regarded by aviation experts as being the main reason for its enviable record in the security field.

President Reagan's announcement of more marshals has attracted criticism from American international airline organizations.

Israeli sources attribute the greatest part of El-Al's success to its policy of deterrence, which is enforced by the world's strictest searching procedure of passengers and luggage. This is backed by an effective isolation of both once the searching is complete and the delegation of the often intimidating search procedure to experts.

The thoroughness of the searches and the pre-flight questioning on El-Al - which are carried out by the airline's

own specially trained personnel - have provoked criticism from some passengers and ground staff at overseas airports like Heathrow where the queues often disrupt other airlines.

But most Israeli passengers claim to prefer what one described to me recently as "a single minded effort to put safety before everything, including comfort."

The search procedures are the most exhaustive at Tel Aviv airport, where passengers have to answer a long list of personal questions - often hostilely phrased - about their recent movements, acquaintances and travel plans.

It is commonplace to see certain types of passenger - especially young Europeans and Arabs - being questioned for 30

minutes or more before being allowed through.

One reason why the experts play down the relative effectiveness of the sky marshals is the acknowledged danger of firing guns inside pressurised aircraft cabins. It is known that the El Al security guards are equipped with other forms of less conventional weaponry as well, although details are not available.

At long ago as 1972, Mr James Lederer, then chief of Washington's Federal Aviation Agency rated the significance of the marshals as much less than that of the searching procedures.

In the United States yesterday, Mr Richard Lally, the security chief for the association representing US airlines, reacting to Mr Reagan's statement, called any crash programme a "giant step backwards." "It is not the answer to the problem. It provides for a very dangerous situation. We do not want a shoot-out at 40,000 feet," he said.

Federal armed marshals already travel on special high risk flights but Mr Reagan would like to see American airlines following the example of such companies as South African, Jordanian and Israeli airlines, which have armed guards on each flight and insist on extensive security checks before boarding.

15 die as gunmen rake Salvador café

From John Carlin, Mexico

Fifteen people were killed, four of them US Marines, when gunmen opened fire on a busy open-air café in a fashionable district of San Salvador.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack on Tuesday night, described by military sources as the most spectacular in the capital since 1981.

Government officials appeared to be in no doubt that it was work of left-wing guerrillas.

Two American civilians died in the attack, and four Guatemalans and five Salvadorans, the Government said. Twelve people were wounded.

According to witnesses, a pick-up truck pulled up outside a café frequented by US Marines in the wealthy night-club district known as the Pink Zone. Between eight and 12 gunmen raked the café tables with automatic rifle fire.

The four Marines, guards at the US Embassy, had reportedly spotted the gunmen and started to get up before the shooting began.

The gunmen made their getaway before army helicopters arrived.

● WASHINGTON: President Reagan consulted his national security advisers yesterday to consider steps that could be taken immediately in response to the shooting (Christopher Thomas writes). On top of the agenda was a proposal to provide technical assistance to law-enforcement agencies in El Salvador in tracking down the killers.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said consideration was being given to providing additional intelligence capacity to El Salvador,

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India-Pakistan fighting on glacier Struggle for vital passes

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Fighting has broken out again on the worst battlefield in the world, between three and four miles above the over-heated plains of India and Pakistan.

The battlefield is the Siachen glacier close to the junction with the Salto glacier in an area so bleak, so cold, so inhospitable that mountaineers call it "the third pole".

During the past week India and Pakistan troops have been skirmishing for control of the passes leading to the Siachen glacier, which both countries now see as the key to the northern areas of the disputed state of Kashmir.

Fighting also took place last month both on the glacier and above it, as Pakistani aircraft huzzed an Indian transport dropping supplies to troops on the glacier.

"It is a Godforsaken place", President Zia ul Haq of Pakistan told me last year. And certainly operating with troops at temperatures which can fall as low as minus 50 degrees in winter and even as low as minus 15 at this time of year is fraught with difficulties.

At these temperatures - enhanced by wind-chill factors as the gale-force blasts shriek around the mountain ridges - flesh sticks to exposed metal. The air is so thin that helicopters can scarcely beat their way upwards.

Carrying provisions by porter is virtually impossible since the porters would eat as much as they could carry.

In the ceasefire agreements ending the various wars between Pakistan and India over Kashmir the ceasefire line or line of control has been firmly demarcated as far as a point north of the Shyok river

known simply by its grid reference - NJ9842. From here on, the agreements say vaguely "the line continues northwards".

The terrain was so unpleasant beyond this point that no one much bothered to venture there, but the Indians were distressed in 1984 when various international atlases were produced, in particular *The Times Atlas* and *The Readers Digest World Atlas*, the line of control was shown as proceeding north-eastwards towards the Karakoram Pass.

In the mid-seventies that area of the former Kashmir state

known by Pakistan as Azad Kashmir (Free Kashmir) and on the Indian side as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir was opened up to mountaineers, and international teams were able to visit the bare mountain Nanga Parbat and K2, the world's second highest mountain.

Some expeditions also began climbing the "new peaks" in the Teram Kangri and the Salto groups, moving in from the Pakistan side, though India regards these as on its side of the line.

India retaliated with a series of expeditions from the Indian High Altitude Warfare School whereupon Pakistan decided to

send a force of its elite Northern Light Infantry to occupy the glacier.

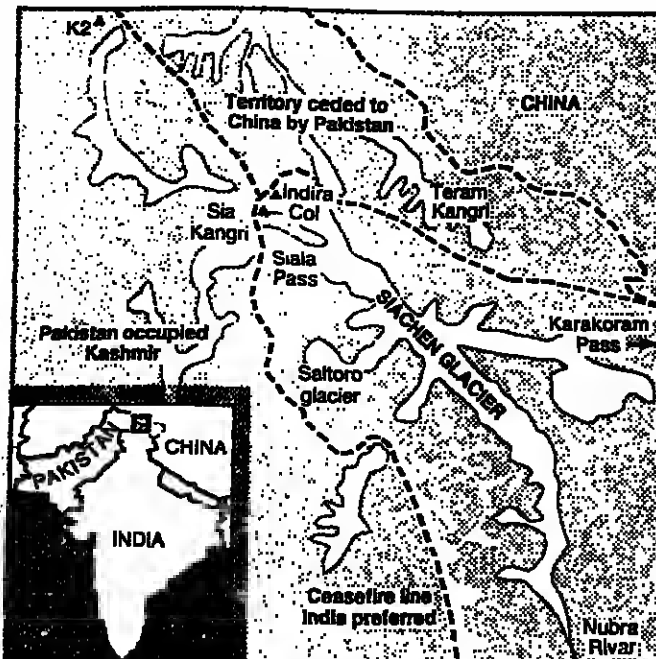
India's intelligence network got wind of these plans and preempted them by sending a force of its own there, so that when in April 1984, the Pakistanis began to move in they found the heights already occupied. A major thrust through the Siala and Bafond passes by the Pakistanis took place a year ago this week, close enough to the Indian Army action in the Golden Temple of Amritsar to make the Indians believe that there was some connection.

The thrust was thrown back, say the Indians, with some serious casualties on the Pakistan side, and one man was killed and one man wounded on the Indian side.

Since then the weather and the appalling conditions have taken a greater toll of the Indian force on the glacier. At least 27 have died in avalanches, according to the general commanding the northern districts.

The battles seem likely to continue however so long as the weather makes it possible. The Pakistanis have some advantage in that they can make a shorter journey from their base camps by using the Siala and Bafond passes, whereas the Indians have to move virtually all the way from the Nubra valley, nearly 50 miles from the towering Indira col and Siala Kangri at the head of the glacier.

A diplomatic solution to the problem is bound to be complicated by the fact that India has still not got over its anger that 1,760 square miles of this area was ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963.



The Siachen glacier where fighting has broken out again.

Children killed in ritual sacrifice to goddess

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

Three young boys have become human sacrifices in a religious ceremony which illuminates a darker side to life in this crowded sub-continent. The boys died in a ritual aimed at appeasing the fabled goddess of death and destruction sometimes known as Kali, sometimes Durga, and in this case, Manjag.

According to the authorities in the former princely state of Ranpur, near Puri in the eastern state of Orissa, the boys, aged 14, 12, and 10, all members of the lowly barber

Troops fire on mob in Hindu-Muslim clashes

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

At least two people died and five more were hurt as soldiers opened fire on a stone-throwing mob in Dariajpur in Ahmedabad yesterday.

The crowds had been excited by a typical piece of religious confrontation between Hindus and Muslims. Two religious holidays fell yesterday, the Muslim Id-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the fast of Ramadan, and the Hindu Rath Yatra.

To prevent communal clashes, which have been continuing in Gujarat state, of which Ahmedabad is the principal



Ayatollah Khomeini, aged 86, waving to Iranian officials and foreign dignitaries at a ceremony in Tehran yesterday to mark the end of Ramadan. The Ayatollah is apparently in good health and still in charge of the revolution (writes Habbir Teimourian). Speaking for just under half an hour, he accused the international media

of participation in a conspiracy with the superpowers not to report recent demonstrations in Iran in support of his Government, and he once again committed the state to continuing the 57-month Gulf war with Iraq until complete victory. He did not refer to the current hijack by Shias in Lebanon.

French voters show disillusion

From Diana Geddes, Paris

With the general election in France only nine months away, the gap between support for the right and for the left has widened to an unprecedented 24 points.

According to the authoritative Sifits poll, 60 per cent of those expressing an intention to vote in the election say they will give their support to the right-wing parties, while only 36 per cent intend to vote for the left.

Yet M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, insisted once again in his monthly television chat show on Wednesday night that in his opinion the outcome was still open, and he may not simply be whistling in the wind. For what the polls have been showing over the past few months is not so much a clear swing from left to right, but rather a growing rejection of all party politics by an increasingly confused and disillusioned electorate.

In the Sifits poll, for example, as many as 50 per cent of those questioned either said they were still hesitating

between left and right, or declined to express any voting intention.

Another poll published yesterday on what kind of policy voters would most like to see introduced showed 27 per cent opting for a liberal (which in France means right-wing) policy, 23 per cent for a socialist policy and 12 per cent for a social democratic policy, but as many as 38 per cent said they did not know which policy they would prefer. With that level of uncertainty, accurate prediction becomes impossible.

On the popularity of individual politicians are providing an equally confusing picture. One poll published this week, for example, shows President Mitterrand jumping five points to 42 per cent of "good opinions" - his highest score for that poll since last June, while another shows him slipping three points to 31 per cent when people were asked whether they were confident he was leading the country in the right direction.

After enjoying a burst in popularity earlier this year, M Fabius has also been slipping in the polls over the past three months, though he still enjoys the "good opinions" of 49 per cent of the electorate.

Indeed, along with Mr Raymond Barre and M Michel Rocard, he remains one of the three most popular French politicians, despite the intense unpopularity of his Government; 66 per cent of those polled say they are dissatisfied with the way the country is being governed.

The French may think that President Mitterrand is leading them down the road to chaos and disaster, but not one of the opposition leaders is considered likely to be able to do much better. A poll published yesterday shows that 68 per cent expect M Valéry d'Estaing would do the same or worse than M Mitterrand if he were President; 63 per cent feel the same about M Chirac; and even M Barre, the current darling of the right, only gets 37 per cent

US asks Japan for missile help

From Davis Watts, Tokyo

The United States has made its first official request to Japan for the transfer of military technology. Mr Takakazu Kuriyama, Director of the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau, reported the request, under an agreement reached in 1983, to the Lower House foreign affairs committee.

He declined to go into specifics, but it is understood that the request is for state-of-the-art missile tracking and guidance technology. The request was made to the Government because the system was developed by the Defence Agency, a Government body.

The Japanese press says the system has been developed for portable surface-to-air missiles and is able to overcome obstacles by memorizing the image of the target.

Japan will now study the request but it is likely to be some time before it responds. The Government has to work out specific procedures for arms technology transfer, how costs will be shared, what to do when transfers involve private firms and how to ensure there is no leakage of know-how to third countries.

The United States has sent three delegations of defence experts in the last two years to examine advanced Japanese know-how with military applications.

The transfer request follows quickly on a visit to the United States by the Director-General of the Defence Agency, Mr Koichi Kato, and a Senate resolution accusing Japan of "failing to provide sufficient funding and resources to meet its basic self-defence needs".

A senior Foreign Ministry official said yesterday that any criticism of Japan's defence efforts could be counterproductive.

North and South Korea have agreed in principle to set up a joint committee for economic co-operation.

The proposal, put forward by the North, appeared to have been agreed over the North-South hot line in advance of yesterday's meeting as the Northern delegation was ready with a typed statement welcoming the South's concurrence when the two met in the border village of Panmunjom.

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this aspect but in a highly competitive two horse race where one horse is already in front by a head, this aspect counts for enough to remove the possibility of a photo finish.

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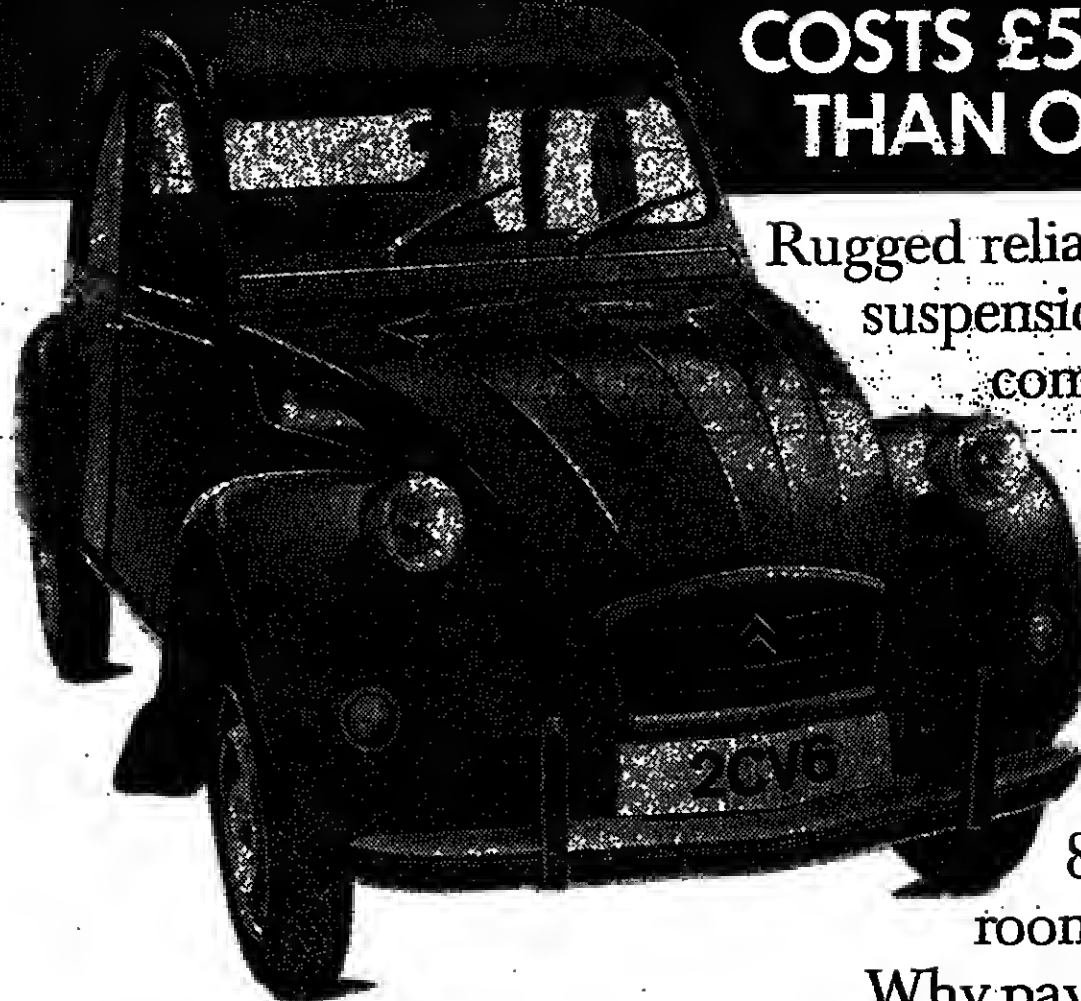
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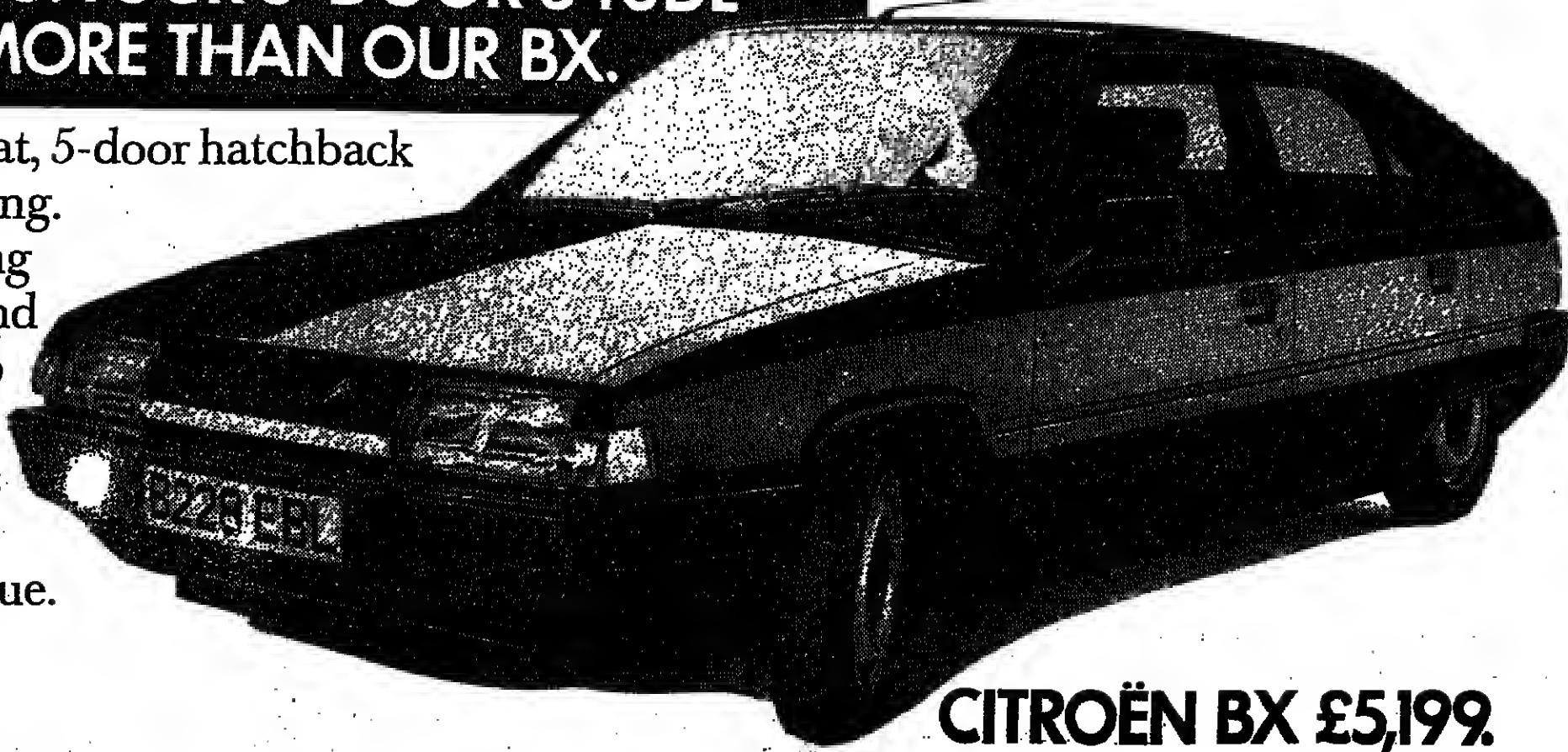
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SPECTRUM

Novelists with the world before them

Take a wealthy American Jewish family where the marriage has died, add a young boy, a refugee from his parents, and mix him with a tough, alarming Jamaican woman in Brooklyn: and you have the recipe which won for Joseph Olshan the first Times/Jonathan Cape Young Writers' Competition.



Young Writers' COMPETITION

Our aim in launching the competition, with prizes totalling £5,000, last year was to provide a stimulus and a deadline for writers under 30 who were contemplating a book or in the throes of writing one. I had been involved in two previous competitions: one of them judged by the editor of *Saturday Review*, who wrote his first novel *Getaway* for a science fiction contest, the other spurred D. M. Thomas to finish his first novel *The Flute Player*. These seemed like good reasons to try it again.

Although we had solicited both non-fiction and fiction entries, of the 122 responses we received only four were non-fiction. The overall quality of the writing was high and the five winning books are, as Doris Lessing, one of the judges, put it, "all of great interest, on a high level and all quite different from each other". Entries came from New Zealand, China, America and from all over Britain.

There was a wide variety of themes and concerns - much post-holocaust despair and widespread sexual ambiguity, but little of the kitchen sink or of feminist writing. There was a cheering element of Urbidge and Bainbridge to counter the inevitable Oxbridge, and what did emerge was a certain grim realism relieved by flashes of fantasy

and imagination. The winning book, *Clara's Heart*, excited us with its depiction of what another judge, Hermione Lee, called "a cultural clash". The dialogue is marvelously conveyed and often very funny, and although the story is written from the boy's point of view, the author achieves a range of sympathies which Ian McEwan describes as "extraordinarily mature".

The runner-up, *The Prodigal Father* by Kate Saunders, is so accomplished that some of us wondered if Doris Lessing had submitted it under a pseudonym. This beautifully written story of a motherless family of girls living on the Isle of Wight at the turn of the century impressed the judges, who included Peter Stothard and myself, with its Compton-Burnett-style handling of family life.

We will also be publishing the three other books from the shortlist. *Dog's Life* by James Rogers is a sobering tale of a breathtakingly vicious and eerily intelligent eight-year-old called Paul. *The Hare and His Dance for the Moon* by Richard Burns is about a shell-shocked poet struggling to live with his memories in the aftermath of the First World War. And from New Zealand, comes a writer of fine wit and imagination in Hugh Cook, author of a post-apocalyptic fantasy, *After Advent*.

Liz Calder

Editorial Director, Jonathan Cape, and chairman of the judges

An extract from Joseph Olshan's winning book will appear in *The Times* tomorrow

THE WINNER Joseph Olshan

The story told in Joseph Olshan's novel is about the affection and trust between a boy, whose parents divorce, and his mother's middle-aged Jamaican housekeeper. Mr Olshan's parents divorced when he was a schoolboy, and his mother's Jamaican housekeeper was a dependable rock in his middle-teenage years.

He insists, however, that *Clara's Heart* is not autobiographical. "Clara, the housekeeper in the novel, bears no resemblance to Miss Gwen, my mother's housekeeper. I recognized that, with first novels in particular a writer can be bound by his memories, but I was not trying to re-create my childhood."

"I had a promising story of a white boy and a black woman, and I worked hard to carve it out over a period of three-and-a-half years. The first versions were written in the first person, but that made the novel seem too autobiographical."

In another version I tried to beef it up commercially, but that wasn't right. "I put the book to one side for about a year while I worked on something else. This was my way of steeping myself in it, a necessary process for any writer."

"When I returned to it, to work on the final rewrite I had a much clearer lens. I knew what I wanted. I cast it in the third person to help me be objective about the characters. I discarded all the flowery passages and weeded out the commercial stuff because it was not believable. I cut the book to the bone to get at the passion."

"It is a story about a love that cannot be sanctioned, between the housekeeper and the boy. Obviously it's a finite love because of their ages



Joseph Olshan: "I cut the book to the bone to get at the passion"

and their social stations, she hired help, he the son of an upper middle-class New York home. She has her own tragedy, the loss of her child, and she becomes a surrogate mother to a boy left on his own. She holds everything together. When she takes him to see her friends, all these wonderful Jamaican ladies in Brooklyn, he sees how the other half lives, and finds companionship."

Mr Olshan, who is 29, went to the University of Vermont and the University of California, then worked in the film industry in Hollywood, reading scripts and film

ideas. "I didn't like it much," he says. "Apart from the craftsman, who are very good, the movie-business attracts mediocrity. Many of the writers and directors are no good and many actors are bores. Hollywood demystified the movie business for me and I came back to New York to write."

Mr Olshan is thrilled by the prize. "I worked tenaciously on the novel. After the telephone call from London I couldn't write the rest of the day, I was so excited."

Trevor Fishlock

THE RUNNER-UP Kate Saunders

She did not go quite to the lengths of Jane Austen, who is said to have hidden her manuscripts under the knitting whenever someone entered the room, but Kate Saunders has been a closet novelist, until now.

She managed to keep her competition entry a secret but when she learnt that she was runner-up in the Times/Jonathan Cape First Novel Competition, she came out in grand style, with phone calls to friends and family.

Her novel, *The Prodigal Father*, tells of a family of girls living on the Isle of Wight at the turn of the century. The father, who never liked his children, has flown the coop, returning several years later upon the death of his wife.

Despite the fact that the oldest girl in the story is 18, the same age as Kate was when she started to write it, and despite the fact that it is set in the location of her own family holidays, she denies emphatically that the novel is about herself.

"I suppose that's what I'm proudest about, though I'd have to agree that one puts tiny bits of oneself into all the characters, inevitably."

Kate, aged 25, is an actress, currently appearing in two plays at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. Mike Scott's *Dead Men* and *Macquinn's Metamorphoses* by Martin Hobbs. It might explain an unusual confidence in the use of dialogue. So many first attempts seem to keep the characters tied to their creator by the short leash of prose, as though they will come to grief if let loose with their own words.

There is a good deal of ink in the



Kate Saunders: "Such long hours"

Saunders veins. Kate's elder brother is a poet, and her two younger sisters are journalists, one an editor at *Marvel Comics*, the other features editor of *Girl About Town*. Her father is a freelance public relations man and her mother, once of the *Daily Mirror*, now writes for *Church Times*.

"If it hadn't been for my parents, I don't think I would have persevered with the book," says Kate. I showed it to them at its first draft stage, when I was 18. As far as I'm concerned, it read like semaphores, but they were very encouraging.

"I devoted such long hours to the book," she recalls, "that my backside aches in retrospect. But, having written it, I got the most marvellous sense of satisfaction. It's something that you've made. In seeing, you don't get that feeling, because there's nothing tangible to show for it. I thought, well, whether it's good or whether it's bad, it's there, and it's got a momentum of its own."

Alan Franks

Richard Rogers' daring new building for Lloyd's of London has its foundations in the 1920s

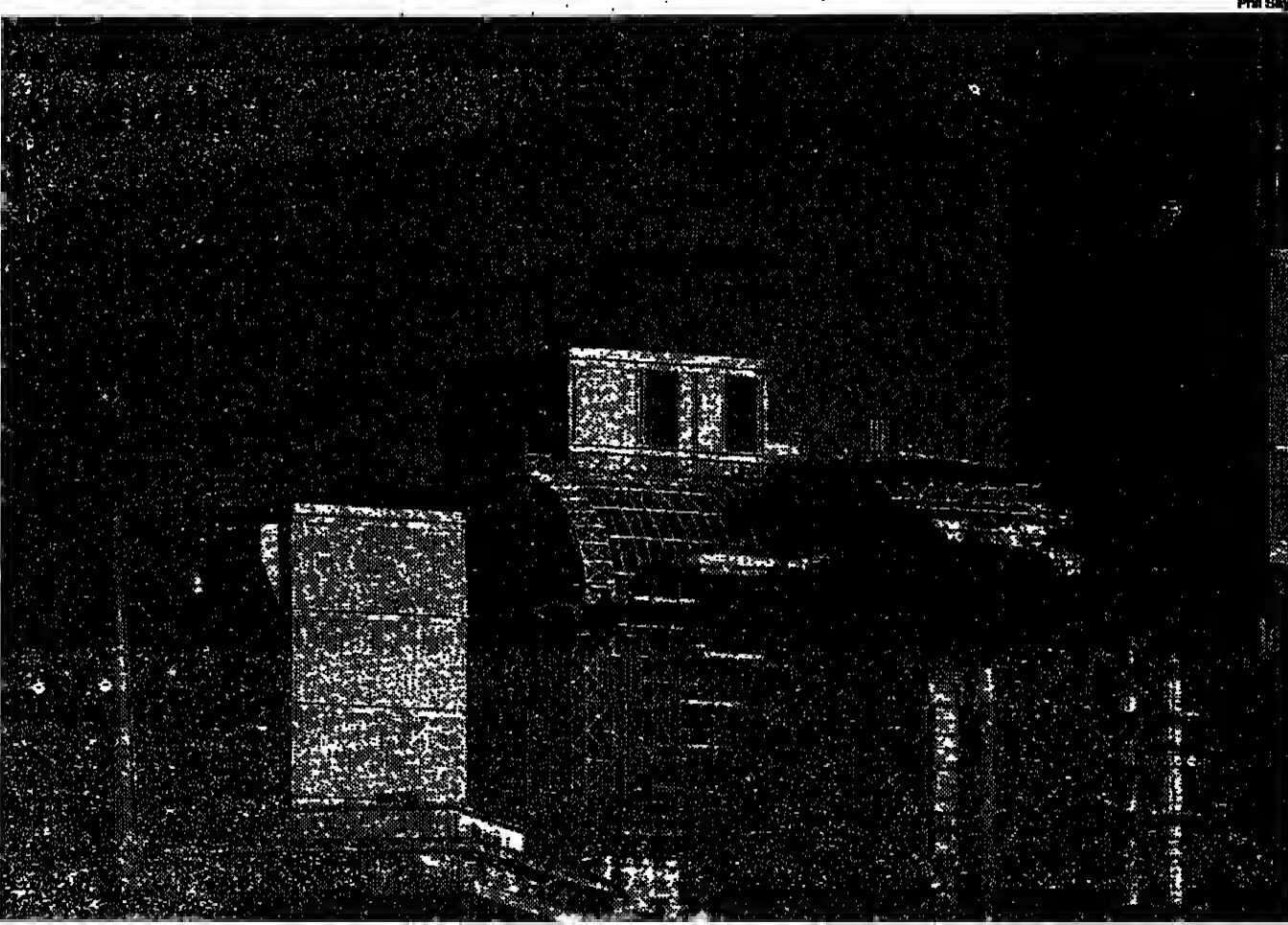
Architect under a hi-tech influence

In 1928 the father-in-law of a certain Doctor Dalsace bought an 18th century town house at 31 rue St Guillaume in Paris. The plan was to knock it down and build new consulting rooms and a house for his daughter and the good doctor. Unfortunately the old lady living in the top-floor flat refused to move, unaware that her stubbornness would, 57 years later, help to transform the skyline of the City of London.

Back at rue St Guillaume the doctor's architect, Pierre Chareau, was unruffled. Using steel underpinning for the top floor, he proceeded to demolish the house leaving the old lady with her flat and a staircase to reach it. Beneath her feet Chareau proceeded to construct one of the most extraordinary buildings of the 20th century - the Maison de Verre, using every material to the limits of its known capability. He built the walls of translucent glass lenses and steel and everything down to the rotating bidets was custom-designed. Nothing looked like anything anybody had ever seen before. Outside, steel ladders provided lighting gantries which directed beams inwards through the lenses and inside glass screens and storage units made everything mobile, or "transformable", as Chareau put it.

The Maison de Verre became a cult building. It did not feature in the official histories of modern architecture but, during the 1950s and 1960s, was discovered by a generation of architectural students one of whom, Richard Rogers, will be awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects Gold Medal on Tuesday. The award comes as the new Lloyd's insurance building in the city is nearing completion - a building deeply and unashamedly influenced by Chareau's wayward masterpiece.

"If you want to know of a building that influences Richard Rogers and Partners more than



Grand design: the Lloyd's insurance building, nearing completion and helping to transform the City of London's skyline

any other", Rogers comments, "it is the Maison de Verre". From Chareau, Rogers has derived his profound love of the intricacies of technology. It has earned him many enemies among the conservationist New Right who claim that his work is simply "not architecture". But it has resulted in a new sense of excitement about modern buildings at a time when real architecture seemed to be on the run from a wave of feeble revivalism.

The Rogers style - now generally known as "hi-tech" - was not easily evolved. His architectural education took place at a time when few people in the profession questioned the absolute rightness of the masters of modern architecture - Le Corbusier, Mies van Der Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright. But this was producing slavish imitations and the shortcomings of Le Corbusier's ideas of urban planning were laying the foundations for civic disasters up and down the country. When Rogers first went into

practice in 1963 with his first wife, Su, and Norman and Wendy Foster, the problem had become clear enough - what could the committed modern architect do next?

As a post-graduate student at Yale, he had come into contact with the attempted solutions of the American-based masters - Louis Kahn, Eero Saarinen, Serge Chermayeff and Paul Rudolph - but he had yet to find his own form. The early buildings of the practice - known as Team 4 - though often highly successful clearly owed much to the experiments of others. But in 1966 they were asked to build a factory for Reliant Controls at Swindon in 10 months from the moment of receiving the commission. After a series of private houses each of which had taken years to complete, Team 4 clearly had to come up with a new method. For inspiration they first looked to the house built by Charles and Ray Eames in California in 1950, constructed entirely of off-the-shelf parts.

The result was an award-winning design and a rediscovery of the beauty of technology in the raw which Rogers had first spotted in the rue St Guillaume. Team 4 had found its direction even though soon afterwards they were to split up and Foster and Rogers were to go their own ways.

In fact, although both maintained the "hi-tech" inspiration, their different temperaments began to produce startlingly different buildings. Foster is, in essence, a classicist whose buildings have a taut, finished look - most notably with the Willis Faber headquarters in Ipswich or the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia. Rogers, in contrast, has evolved a romantic style with almost Gothic overtones. His most famous building - and possibly the most successful modern building in the world - the Centre Pompidou in Paris derives its beauty from an almost unfinished feeling.

There is also a distinct sense that the sheer weight of design creativity is simply being

allowed to flood all over the surface.

But, even after the massive success of the Centre Pompidou, Rogers was far from safe professionally. And, in Britain, innovative architecture seldom receives patronage.

Big British buildings tend to be built by big British architectural practices whose primary talent is in dealing with the planning regulations and producing bland, unobjectionable styles. This leaves the Great Unbuilt - the dozens of gifted



Richard Rogers: a style that was not easily evolved

British architects who never see a building site while mediocrities seize multi-million pound commissions.

"I can't think of any other country which ignores architecture except to knock it," he says. "The fact that there's been a lot of mistakes goes without saying. On the other hand there is very little recognition of design quality and we have produced one particular breed of architect in this country - the politician rather than the designer who just knows how to get round the planning laws."

"So there are many fine talents who just don't build. And if you don't build, if you don't write, if you don't make love when the opportunity comes you have greater difficulties expressing yourself."

It was all the more astonishing, therefore, for Rogers to be awarded the Lloyd's contract. A supremely conservative insti-

tution was asking the figurehead of the architectural avant-garde to design a building costing more than £150 million in the heart of London.

The result is a modern masterpiece which will out-Chareau Chareau, but which owes much to him in its courageous exploitation of materials. Rogers has produced extraordinary 240-foot high concrete columns which soar up through the central glazed atrium.

John Young, one of Rogers' partners, is in the habit of staring with glazed happiness at these columns and murmuring: "We've taken concrete further than its ever been taken before". Rogers has used six service towers, which carry the replaceable toilet cassettes, lifts and stairs, to give an ethereal quality to the city skyline. Even the turquoise service cranes and the massive stainless steel air-conditioning ducts seem to add to the effect. He has produced a poetry of technology.

The building itself stands as a powerful argument for modern architecture, but Rogers is still fully aware of how far he is from winning the case in Britain. The effect of the conservation campaign has been to make new building not quite respectable. In Paris recently he judged a competition and President Mitterrand turned up for half a day to discuss the entries.

As if to prove his point Rogers' next major building will be in Seattle while chronically-compromised office blocks and institutions by talented designers continue to spring up around Britain.

Lloyd's will be officially opened next May and meanwhile in Hong Kong the new offices of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation by his old partner Norman Foster are nearing completion. One of the motives of the old master Mies which he used to growl to his followers was "Get ze verk". The graduates of Team 4 have finally - against all the odds - done just that.

Bryan Appleyard

Coaching the driver

COMMENT

An excellent *Spectrum* article (June 7) on coach safety made the point that it is probably 10 times safer to travel by coach than by car. But, being married to a marketing manager of the world-wide coach company, and working in the tour-guide industry, I think we can make coach travel even safer for the passengers by acting on the human errors which cause most accidents.

There is nothing to stop someone finishing a normal 40-hour week, in an office, say, and immediately taking on an overnight coach-driving job. Surely coach drivers should be treated like airline pilots and made to take regular rests?

We should follow the continental example and insist on coach drivers having a medical examination every year - not waiting until they are 46, and then following them up at too-long intervals.

The Department of Transport has been talking to coach operators about changing the law to allow coach drivers to act as guides while driving. At the moment it is illegal but the last time a coach driver was prosecuted for breaking this law, sympathetic magistrates fined him only £5; now the police prosecute for driving without due care and attention, as the penalties are heavier. The department, pointing to a lack of prosecutions, seems to believe it will be perfectly safe for a driver to give a commentary

whilst driving on winding country roads or in heavy traffic. A change in the rules will save money, but just let me get out of the way if this becomes law.

People talk about improving coach safety, but sometimes passengers cause the accidents. Fifty people with hand luggage stuffed in roof racks equals half a ton of overloading and potential trouble if a coach has to swerve. This luggage should be only handbags and papers, the rest going in the boot. Anything left in gangways is illegal and can block emergency exits.

One item that could improve safety is the computerized ABS braking system. This enables the driver to apply full brake pressure when required under any road conditions, operating the brakes independently to their maximum potential without locking the wheels. It is designed to prevent skidding, and at present is an optional extra on most continental vehicles.

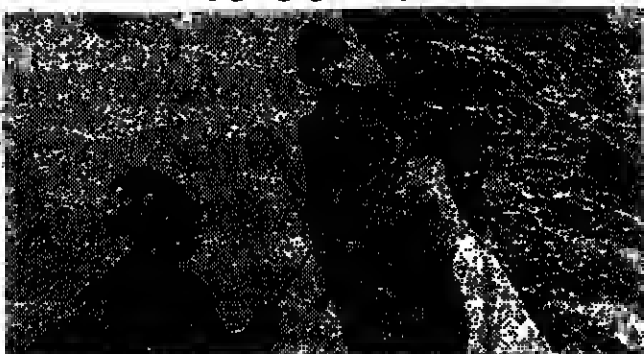
Apart from this item, the Department of Transport should insist on more driver training, including first aid. A real professional is safer behind the wheel, avoiding trouble by thinking ahead.

Verité Baker

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AUBERON WAUGH

on the Getty bequest: "I do not think it at all a good idea that the National Gallery should be encouraged to go on buying pictures. It has quite enough already. After a certain point, I am convinced that every work of art transferred from private to public ownership represents a diminution in the total sum of human happiness."

ANDREW BROWN

on Education: "Anyone who has been to school, as I suppose many *Spectator* readers have, knows that most teachers are stupider than their cleverer pupils, and scarcely better informed. Mercifully age allows us to forget this, as we forget the other horrors of childhood. The correspondence columns of the *TES* refresh the memory."

JEFFREY BERNARD

at a wedding: "It was a glorious day married only for five minutes by my looking out across the river and pondering my own marriages. The old eyes brimmed over and two tears splashed into my vodka giving it an attractively salty flavour. This is a new cocktail that I have decided to call Marriage on the Rocks."

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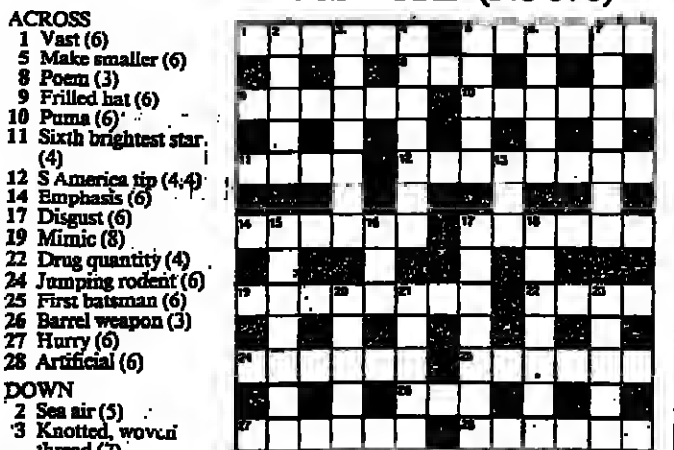
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11 Sixth brightest star (4)
12 S America tip (4,4)
14 Emphasis (6)
17 Dignity (6)
19 Mingle (6)
22 Drug quantity (4)
24 Jumping rodent (6)
25 First batsman (6)
26 Barrel weapon (3)
27 Hurry (6)
28 Artificial (6)

- DOWN
2 Sea air (3)
3 Knotless woolen thread (7)
4 Imitator (7)
5 Summarize (5)
6 Flour-water mixture (5)
7 Moribund feeling (7)
13 Mischievous sprite (3)
15 French castle (7)
16 Nap (3)
17 Surpassed (7)

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- 18 Fiddles (7)
20 Sphere (5)
21 Mental picture (5)
23 Exhausted (5)

FRIDAY PAGE

The agony of being born too beautiful

A woman may be strikingly good looking to everyone but herself, as Shirley Lowe reveals

Audrey Hepburn was the face of the 1950s and 1960s. She came out of the Monroe/Marilyn era but made the bosom obsolete as a fashion object from the moment she appeared in *Gigi* ("Mon Dieu! She was Gigi! She was a cold! Half woman, half boy, unformed, onseffconscious as a woman, surely a virgin, perfection!" marvelled the author Colette on first seeing her, if we are to believe Miss Hepburn's new biography).

Now we learn that while women all over the Western world were flattening their chests, getting their hair cut boyishly, gamin, dying to waif-like fragility and trying to look like Audrey Hepburn, she was far from pleased with herself.

Charles Higham's film-fan biography, to be published in August, reveals that this lovely woman was unhappy about almost every aspect of her appearance. She believed that her eyes were too large, her teeth crooked and the shape of her face irregular. She was jittery about her thin arms, depressed by her flat chest ("Why not wear 'falsies'?" suggested the Hollywood dress designer Edith Head. "I am wearing 'falsies'", said Audrey). Insisted on approving the stunts of *Fluffy* because she thought her breasts were too large and might flare unattractively and had Claude Rorior, France's illustrious cameraman, turned off a film because she felt he wasn't photographing her sympathetically.

Leslie Kerton, beauty editor of *Harpers Queen*, shares Hepburn's daily and has just written a book called *Ageless*. "Audrey was a beautiful woman with defects," she says.

During the premiere of *Roman Holiday* the big face fact throughout the evening because she couldn't bear to watch herself on film. "She was like a young athlete who starts with physical disadvantages that may not be visible to others and relentlessly works to overcome them," writes Mr Higham.

This is just another way of saying that Audrey Hepburn is like many beautiful women, obsessed with appearance to the degree that the tiniest pimple is a catastrophe. Striving for impossible perfection is, surely, a symptom of the insecurity

of someone who has been told so often that she is beautiful that her looks have become her identity.

Mrs Thatcher, who doesn't have to depend on her beauty for her self regard or her living, was recently asked by David Frost whether she considered herself beautiful. She replied: "No. I know I am neat and reasonably all right." Most of us would probably respond to that question in the same sort of way and we are able to accept a spot on the chin with stoicism and an application of anti-wrinkle cream.

David Bailey, who has photographed most of the beautiful women in the world, and been married to some, says he knows why they are insecure. "It's something you get for nothing, beauty. When anything is that easy to get and to have, you doubt it."

Models, he says, invariably fret that their noses are too big or like that, Marie Helvin likes to be photographed from one side of her face, Jerry Hall hides behind all that hair and Jean Shrimpton was always worried about the bags under her eyes. Did she have bags under her eyes?

"Yeah," says Bailey, "she had them, but lots of good looking people do." He has just photographed Cher, the American actress and singer, and she refused to look at the pictures. "That's kind of insecure, isn't it?"

All women who are considered beautiful wonder what the hell everyone's talking about because they know their imperfections so well," says Leslie Kerton, who is considered beautiful. She is the health and beauty editor of *Harpers Queen*, has just written a best seller about the benefits of eating raw foods and has a book coming out soon called *Ageless*.

She runs eight miles daily and glows with golden health. Nevertheless, she broods about the dark circles under her eyes. "My grandmother had them. I've always had them and every time I look in a mirror that is what I see."

She used to worry about her feet, too. "I was a young girl in the late 1950s when it was wasp waists and you were meant to be tiny and feminine and I had feet like a gorilla. I spent the whole of my youth with my feet buried in the sand of California and my tan started at my ankles. I was about 30 before I realized that, okay, I didn't have feet like a Greek goddess but they were strong feet, healthy and good for



climbing trees. From that moment my tan started at my toes."

Leslie Kerton believes that most beautiful women have defects. "You say Audrey Hepburn is beautiful. I say she's beautiful, but she has no breasts, wonderful crooked teeth and she was thinner than anyone would want to be. And yet she had beautiful eyes and such vitality and those imperfections make her unique. Beauty is about being what you are and being it with flair, accepting your own looks."

Marilyn Monroe, that other female prototype, was never able to accept her imperfections and by the end of her life her self image was totally destroyed. Michael Winner, the film producer and director, says he has never known a happy actress over the age of thirty. "It's very sad. The clock ticks more surely for a woman than it does for a man. With each tick she gets a bit older, a bit more insecure, a bit more frightened to go on the set and face the

Audrey Hepburn, the Face of the Fifties (above) and as she is today. Born in Belgium in 1929, she became a model, played the lead in *Gigi* on Broadway and won an Academy Award for *Roman Holiday*.

cameras. Sometimes you're lucky to get them out of the dressing room at all and you have to cut scenes to accommodate them. That's what happened to Monroe.

All actresses, he says, are insecure. "The reason they become actresses is in order to take on somebody else's character, to be somebody else and they are afraid, all the time, that somebody is going to be standing at the side of the set saying: 'Just look at that ugly hand!'"

"Carol White, for instance, wouldn't play a nude scene, not because she was afraid of being seen



Sophia Loren in *The Key* (1958) and as she is today. Born in 1934 she grew up in a Naples slum and was groomed for stardom by Carlo Ponti, the man who became her husband.



Brigitte Bardot as the French sex symbol (above) and as she is now. Born in Paris in 1934, she posed on the cover of a magazine at 15 and married film director Roger Vadim, who shaped her career.



Jean Shrimpton as the Shrimp (above), the world's No 1 model of the Sixties, and as she is today. Born in 1942, she now runs a small hotel with husband Michael in Cornwall and has a son aged five.



Rita Hayworth, as erotic film queen of Hollywood (above) and today (right). Born in 1918 in New York, she made her screen debut in 1935; her first big role was in *Only Angels Have Wings*.

in the nude but because somebody might point at her and say that her bosoms had drooped, which they hadn't. You just have to jolly them along. I've paid out thousands of pounds to some make-up man or hairdresser because the star imagines he's the only person in the world who can make them look all right, and the truth is they look fine, they don't need any of them."

"The awful thing about living off your looks is that it's like being in class at school and every year you're more likely to be the dunce in the corner and nobody is interested in you and nobody phones you and you just go home every night and wait for the telephone."

"I remember once standing outside Chasens in Los Angeles with Rita Hayworth. She was drinking heavily because nobody had phoned her for a long time and the street light caught her profile and the clock tower back, and it was like seeing *Gilda* all over again."

"Of course they all adore sweet things and they exercise and diet and put aside all the pleasures of life the rest of us enjoy because they know that if they get fat they've had it. I very much admire Faye Dunaway who has only one meal a day and works terribly hard at keeping attractive."

Winner was once on location with Sophia Loren when she insisted on standing on a chair and shouting at the crowds in the street not to take photographs. "I said to her: 'Sophia, dear, let me do that for you; let me shout'. But she wouldn't stop. She knew that a member of the public only has to take one unflattering photograph and sell it to the papers and she'll be over the hill and losing a lot of work and money."

The narcissistic obsessions of professional beauties are understandable, but John Taylor, who works for Adel Rootstein, and sculpts those realistic figures who prou and loom so menacingly in

shop windows these days, says that the people who pose for him worry just as much about their looks as actors and models.

"They're all concerned with their 'oozes'", he says. "They have never seen themselves three dimensional before and they say could you take a bit off here and how would I look if I had a bit off there? I try to faithfully reproduce all the little looks and crannies and mistakes because liquorice allsorts is what it's all about. I've had a girl say to me: 'I'm a mess, I'm ugly' and I say: 'You're absolutely right. Your nose is crooked and your eyes are too close together, but don't change anything. It's perfect.'"

"The thing to remember is that women feel they have to contend with a current look and, when they realize they've got to bring out their cheekbones or make their eyes larger, they think they are ugly because they are not conforming to the mood of the moment."

Mr Taylor says he never quite believes model girls when they swear they look awful. "There's something a bit disingenuous about it. I think what they're actually saying is: 'Let's get back to the great topic. Let's talk about me again.'"

Continuing to look good has certainly become more of a strain as some women raise the standard. At one time a beautiful woman was over the top at 35, then came Sophia Loren and Brigitte Bardot looking good at 40, now Joan Collins succeeding as a sex symbol at 50.

"You wouldn't catch Joan Collins talking about what's wrong with her looks, she's much too professional," says Mr Taylor, adding indifferently: "If there was anything wrong, she'd have it put right..."

It is the beauties and oot the uglies who go off to the plastic surgeon and have a nip taken in here, a tuck taken up there and their breasts pumped up so that they can carry on wearing the latest see-through Zandra Rhodes. The other day, one of the prettiest women I know had the bags removed from under her eyes. "Don't mention it to a soul", she hissed and lurked at home until she'd summoned up enough courage to face the world with baby-smooth skin. She needn't have worried because, of course, she was the only person who ever noticed that she had bags under her eyes.

For those of us who were always known that we were neat and reasonably all right, there's something unworshipfully pleasing about discovering that the world's great beauties are riven with insecurity about their looks. Finding out that Audrey Hepburn was wimpy about her thin arms and crooked teeth was like learning that Paul Getty wasn't happy, in spite of all that money.

Nancy Mitford got it right when she had Cedric saying to Fanny in *Love in a Cold Climate*: "Oh, you are lucky, Fanny, not to be a beauty. You'll never know the agony of losing your looks."

Audrey, by Charles Higham, New English Library. To be published August 19, £10.95.

Mum's the word they care about

Parental competition did not end with the eleven plus and was always more intense in the nursery than the classroom. The age at which a baby first talks is one of the milestones eagerly watched for by parents and grandparents, and it passed early, is freely boasted about.

It is therefore not surprising that a baby's late speaking is a frequent reason for visits to the doctor. Dr Stephen Herman, a consultant paediatrician, has recently reviewed the problem in *Update*.

Dr Herman told *The Times* that talking, like any other skill, has to be judged in relation to the rest of the child's development. The age when a child said his first word varied enormously; anything between seven months and four years could be normal. Albert Einstein failed to say anything until he was four, a precedent which is comforting even for the most ambitious parent.

Greater attention, in Dr Herman's view, should be given to the time at which a child first vocalizes, the gurgling, cooing, babbling which a baby makes. As a rough guide, vowel sounds can be first detected at two months and by four months

MEDICAL BRIEFING

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to the hazards which these ancient customs still inflict on women and quotes cases where sudden death has followed.

In western countries gross obesity has been known to cause hypoxia from sudden respiratory failure. But greater damage stems from the chronic ill health caused by hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, gall bladder disease, colonic troubles, varicose veins and arthritis.

Very fat, like very thin women, have problems with hormone balance which can result in hirsutism and menstrual irregularities. These changes may account for the increased incidence of cancer of the breast and uterus found in the obese as well as infertility.

The former Emir of Tagant, who was so very proud of his 19 stone, 14-year-old, wife may, by encouraging her overeating, have denied himself that other prop of the male ego, a large family.

vocalizing should be well established.

Single syllables, ba, da, ma start at about seven months and within a few weeks have become ba ba, da da, ma ma. By a year the first sounds with meaning are spoken and a few months later double syllable words such as mummy and daddy are freely used. By the age of two the personal pronoun is added, "My mummy".

The causes of late speech can be classified into three groups:

● Deafness: This is the most important group and every effort to diagnose it early should be encouraged. Partial deafness, usually high frequency, is particularly difficult to detect.

● Isolated speech delay: The

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age at which children first talk shows a familiar pattern. Some children, otherwise perfectly normal, talk late even though it is obvious that they have a wide understanding of the words said to them and are hearing normally. It does not matter.

● Mental retardation: Late talking can be a symptom of this. Fortunately it is a rare cause even though most children who are mentally impaired do speak late. A possibly confusing factor which must be watched for is the apparent dullness in the child with undiagnosed deafness.

Dr Herman recommends that any child who has not said his first words by 18 months should be seen by an expert. Luckily most will be found to be normal, healthy intelligent children who are just "late speakers".

Pulse. Dr Christopher Bulpi, the UK co-ordinator, reports that treatment of patients with a sustained blood pressure of 160/90 cut deaths due to cardiovascular disease by a third and was equally successful in reducing strokes.

Blisters that burst

As the weather starts to get warmer, patients are often alarmed by the appearance of small blisters on the hands which burst to leave dry scaling patches.

Similar problems occur on the feet particularly if they are prone to sweating and the fungal infection athlete's foot.

The condition, a form of eczema known as cheilopompholyx, is usually mild and responds rapidly to a steroid cream.

MYTHS

That cooking meat on a barbecue will destroy all harmful germs - not necessarily true. At this time of the year, doctors see many cases of food poisoning due to meat, particularly chicken, being inadequately cooked at barbecue parties.

Poultry, sausages and burgers of all sorts must be cooked right through. Care must be taken to keep meat which has been cooked separate from uncooked meat. The same fork should not be used for cooking and serving.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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THE TIMES DIARY

Maxwell challenged

Representatives of Solidarity will today challenge Robert Maxwell to a public debate in London after his disclosure that Maxwell proclaimed the union dead on Polish radio. The *Mirror* publisher, who had just met, and was much impressed by, Polish leader General Jaruzelski, told Poles: "The problem of Solidarity is now solved... Everybody has a job here." Of his *Mirror* Group, Maxwell said: "We sell about 35 million copies a week. We certainly will be devoting less space to Solidarity..." Yesterday Marek Garzicki, Solidarity's representative in Britain, said: "Maxwell's views differ radically from those of both the Foreign Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the British TUC, which protested at the sentencing of three Solidarity leaders last week. It is a challenge to Maxwell to a public debate." Of Maxwell's policy on reducing coverage of Solidarity, Garzicki has written to *Mirror* editor Mike Molloy asking if Maxwell's private views are binding to his staff.

● A grinning Denis Thatcher embarks on the newspaper, on today, of the freedom-to-enjoy smoking group, Forest. Thatcher, it says, is 70. "Asked how he keeps so fit, he replied: 'Gin and cigarettes'. He gets through a 20 pack a day."

Wish granted

Nick Grant, the Labour Party's publicity director, has been brought in by Robert Maxwell to head the *Mirror* Group's public affairs department. Grant, who got the Labour Party job two-and-a-half years ago, has not had an easy ride. Politicians blamed him for his lacklustre handling of Labour's last general election campaign, while last December staff at Labour Party HQ drew up a motion of no confidence in him after his somewhat quixotic appointment of a freelance journalist to handle publicity for the Enfield by-election. Labour should not celebrate his departure too soon: Grant has just announced his intention of standing for Parliament in the next election.

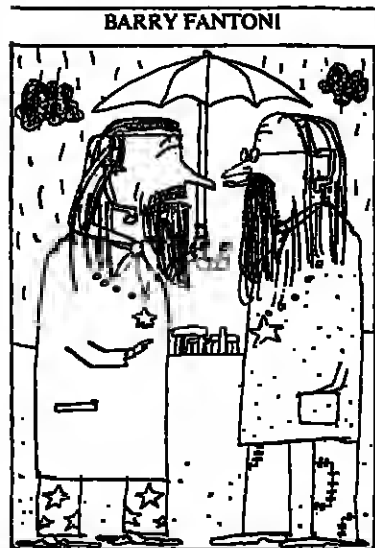
She's a fellow

Peterhouse in Cambridge, famous for producing such right-wing hacks as Peregrine Worsthorne and Colin Welch, is about to elect its first female fellow - Caroline Moore, wife of the *Tatler* editor, Charles Moore, editor of *The Spectator*. Dubbed "Mrs Young Fogey" by the Cambridge graduates, Mrs Moore caused great mirth by revealing a discovery she made while dining at the home of the Tory Party chairman, John Gummer. When she went to collect her coat from the Gummer bed, she accidentally drew back the bedcover, revealing his and-hers pillows one reading SEX, SEX, SEX, the other "YES, YES, YES."

Laying Reiths

What price political independence? BBC External Services has just agreed to set up an exchange of staff with Voice of America, regarded as little more than the Pentagon's propaganda station. Besides promoting the BBC, VOA has also offered to make up the BBC candidates' salaries to American rates, at the cost of several thousand pounds. Not unnaturally, several BBC staff are only too keen to go. Others are said to be outraged at the exchange, saying it will challenge the political independence of the External Services, the only such station in the world free of government pressure.

● Surrounded by the latest high-tech wizardry in the current Tenkoku International Exposition near Tokyo is the UK pavilion set up by the Central Office of Information. It boasts a Sinclair C5 and a left-hand drive Jaguar car. The Japanese, like the British, use right-hand drive cars.



BARRY FANTONI

I know it's the solstice, man, but where's the summer?

The right stuff

Judging by the paranoid questions set for the referees of parliamentary hopefuls by Conservative Central Office, one would think the Tories would be immune from domestic scandal. Question two asks straight out: "Do you know of any incident in his (not her) life, either personal or business, which might cause him (or the party) embarrassment if it were disclosed subsequent to his adoption?" Still more candid, question seven asks: "To what extent will his wife and family be a help or hindrance to him as an MP?" Now who could they be thinking of among the current crop of members' spouses?

PHS

David Butler on what the next election could bring



The Tory faces at risk

The Conservative heartland. The swing against the Government would presumably have been larger if Scotland, London and the metropolitan counties of northern England had had their chance to express their irritation with the Government.

Here is how the voting percentages changed in these 310 English seats between the 1983 general election and the May 2 elections:

	1983	1985	change
Conservative	50.2	38.4	-11.8
Labour	21.4	30.0	+8.6
Alliance	27.9	27.9	0.0

And here is what those swings imply in control of the 310 seats:

	1983	1985
Conservative	158	178
Labour	40	102
Alliance	7	30

It is intriguing to look at individual seats. Consider, for

Where the swings hurt the most

The new analysis shows that if the swings recorded in the May voting were matched in a general election, the Alliance would gain 26 Conservative seats and Labour would gain 62. Here they are, with their present MPs (figures indicate, in percentages, the majorities by which they would lose):

ALLIANCE AHEAD		% lead
London South (Brian Bright)	14.8	14.8
London North (John Gummer)	14.8	14.8
London East (John Gummer)	14.8	14.8
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BANKERS IN DISGRACE

The Chancellor was understandably anxious in the Commons yesterday to focus attention on the lessons of the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers for the future of banking supervision in a period of impending revolution in London's financial markets. It was, after all, the purpose of his statement to report on the review of the method and legal structure of supervision, he set up last December in the wake of that spectacular collapse. It could prove a timely exercise and needs to be an effective one.

Nothing Mr Lawson said, or might have said, however, could distract attention from the sorry chapter of mistakes, confusion and miscalculation that is now synonymous with the JMB affair. The roots of that tangled lie principally in the extraordinary degree of incompetence displayed by the managers of Johnson Matthey Bankers and in the conflict between the lessons learnt respectively by the Government and the Bank of England from the financial and industrial problems of the mid-seventies. The Government learnt that it was damaging the long-term health of the economy to bale out lame ducks in the public or private sector with public money, a lesson it was applying with painful rigour last year in the case of the National Coal Board. The Bank of England had learnt from the fringe banking crisis that in the event of an impending bank failure that might have wider repercussions on London financial markets, it should act swiftly and decisively to ensure that confidence was maintained — a lesson learnt painfully by many other central banks from Hong Kong to New York.

Ironically, the Bank of England's initial mistake in suspecting but not acting sufficiently early to contain JMB's problems was almost a replay of events in 1973. It had then depended on a personal and flexible method that relied on authority and advice with only drastic reserve powers rather than on bureaucratic monitoring and control of banks. The solution was to establish a much more systematic (albeit two-tier) form of supervision, entrusted in administrative changes and in the 1979 Banking Act, to cope with the great increase in the number and types of banks brought by

the growth of London as an international financial centre. Yet in 1984, the Bank's supervisors again failed to judge their men sufficiently harshly and, partly as a result, failed to apply the overweight reserve powers, finding formal authority too inflexible. Even when JMB was on the point of collapse, the Bank's officials repeatedly miscalculated the depth of the pit of losses that JMB had dug for itself.

That may explain the apparent ineptitude of the long weekend meeting which finally resulted in the Bank nationalising JMB. In general, the Bank has taken a more sympathetic interest in failing industrial firms than the Government. But it has restricted its intervention to quiet operations organising commercial banks to provide support for drastic re-organisations as an alternative to immediate receiverships. It hoped for a similar private sector solution to the problems of Johnson Matthey, casting the Canadian Bank of Nova Scotia, which had an interest in the hulk of markets in which JMB traditionally operated, in the role of an aided saviour. The Canadian bank, however, proved a more shrewd judge of the magnitude of the task and demurred. In the ensuing panic complicated by the large number of parties involved, the Bank of England fell back on its instinct to protect confidence in the London gold market at all costs and failed to carry the clearing banks with it except in the most grudging and foot-dragging fashion.

From then on, the desire of the Chancellor, and particularly the Bank, to minimise the apparent conflict between the Bank's policy in the City and the Government's policy towards industry, led to a series of miscalculations. The Bank continually minimised the amount of money involved in the rescue, with the result that each leak or piece of news was worse than the last. A strange fiction was proposed that the Bank's constitutional independence of action somehow extended to its funds not counting as public money. And, in an extraordinary episode, the Bank failed to disclose an "additional" £100 million deposited in JMB (subsequently turned into capital) to the Chancellor causing him to mislead the Commons.

The relationship between the

Treasury and an independent central bank is bound to be tricky, as the degree of detailed control and independence wax and wane. It will undoubtedly have worsened at the expense of the Governor and his senior officials whose status depends on demonstrated competence in their own field.

In the end, the Chancellor cannot, however, avoid responsibility for politically sensitive actions of the Bank, nor, in such circumstances, maintain the fiction that the Bank's money is not public money. Mr Lawson has rightly taken charge, not merely of legislative measures to improve the structure of supervision for the stresses ahead, but also for improved supervisory management at the Bank.

The Governor and the Chancellor now need to work out more detailed groundrules to mesh the Bank's policy for maintaining City confidence with the Government's policy of avoiding the unnecessary use of public money to supplant market forces.

It is, for instance, open to question whether it was necessary to prevent Johnson Matthey Bankers from failure. A distinction needs to be made for the future between isolated failures due to incompetence with few effects on confidence, which require no intervention and, at the other extreme, difficulties which have a general cause as in 1974 when central bank action to maintain confidence is plainly necessary.

The difficult ground lies between, and it is here that the greatest risks will lie in the dramatic changes in the business of many financial institutions when the Stock Exchange is fully opened to competition next year. The Bank has rightly insisted that those backing new dealing firms in the gilt-edged market must stand behind them. It also needs to impress on the banks, particularly the leading joint stock banks, that they will need to accept a greater role in safeguarding the markets on which they depend, even if this occasionally means bailing out competitors at their own expense. Building societies and life assurance companies have long understood their responsibilities to their own markets. Banks should now understand that it is primarily up to them to support the integrity of City markets.

WELL, MINISTER?

The shadow of Poincaré is long. It is not that civil servants approve the man's conduct or ethics, either before his prosecution or since; on the contrary, the government did itself a disservice during the affair in failing to recognize the depth of reaction against Mr Poincaré among his peers. It is, rather, that his trial and acquittal sharpened a mood, a sense of dismay compounded of dissatisfaction with salaries, fear of the onrush of the new managerialism, a failure to accommodate the government's determined bid to shrink Whitehall's numbers; and, overall, an impression that the government in its radicalism had failed to think clearly about where the servants of the State, schooled in older concepts of bureaucratic neutrality, fitted in Mrs Thatcher's grand scheme.

Were that mood only the selfish effluence of an injured interest group, it might safely be ignored. But there is more to it than that. Whitehall's notions of loyalty, implementation and public service are too precious to be discarded without more and deeper thought about the nature of civil service in the smaller, less intrusive state which this government in its fits and starts is working towards. And so it is right that officialdom's own leaders should address that mood, as they have this week.

The Secretary of the Cabinet speaks rarely in public. Yet his address earlier this week in Brighton was a surprisingly personal bid to lift the gloom — a robust statement of his guardianship of the civil service's corporate spirit. He emphasized his authority of the code of conduct issued in the wake of the Poincaré trial, by repeatedly invoking the name of a great post-war Cabinet Secretary, Sir Edward Bridges. Sir Robert Armstrong reminded both his

political masters and his staff of historical continuity in Britain's administration. Inevitably — no public utterance of Sir Robert would be complete without this — there was reference to Cecil and Elizabeth, a citation at once immensely flattering to the Cabinet Secretary and nicely complimentary to the Prime Minister.

By itself such an address would have been inadequate. But the response of the upper mandarinate to post-Poincaré malaise has been double-barrelled: Miss Anne Mueller of the Management and Personnel Office was brought on stage to give a vivid encomium of the new managerial credo and present a model of a professional, trained, energetic civil service fit to take the nation into the twenty-first century.

It was always envisaged that the benefit of Lord Rayner's scrutiny of Whitehall work practices would only be temporary unless tough-minded management could be built into the daily life of departments. Such is the ambition of the financial Management Initiative and Miss Mueller conjures a growing network of committed officials acting in their various departments as agents of change, missionaries of the doctrines of efficiency and value for money. They surely deserve to inherit Whitehall.

When they do, the major obstacles to efficiency will be called into question. Among them are Whitehall's multiple unions. Miss Mueller talks of moving away from the present rigid grading structure towards greater catholicity of skill, personnel moving freely between jobs and in and out of specialisms, indeed in and out of Whitehall: can the Civil and Public Services Association and

its aping of industrial unionism (down to and including its Communists) live in such a reformed world?

But it is not only anachronistic union boundaries and habits that impede this bid to invigorate Whitehall with a managerial ethos. Miss Mueller and her colleagues have absorbed the language of private enterprise: her idealized managers are autonomous, energetic. And what do they do when a callow politician comes trying to nudge the system in favour of a constituent or when a minister interrupts the managerial flow because he is in a funk about Parliamentary debate? The weakness in this model of civil service reform is its connection with politics, the untidy often shabby life of democracy.

By convention, it is ministers and Parliament which takes care of the politics. Officialdom is passive until the moment when decisions are made, then the machine snaps into life. But of course this is the false representation; it is the voice of Sir John Hoskyns' critique of Whitehall lies along the axis of decision-making — only officials who themselves are committed can provide the impetus before the machinery of implementation is set going. Miss Mueller plays tentatively with ideas of a "core" civil service of permanent officials and a changing pool of specialists and experts and the politically involved moving in and out around it. Perhaps her model could be developed; but the thinking should come from the political side. This week has seen an impressive re-statement and elaboration of Whitehall's late twentieth century ethos, from the bureaucrats. It is time these trailing coats were picked up by the Prime Minister, her colleagues and their political advisers.

Government proposals would be to reduce the protection of future generations of private-sector pensioners. The proposals have been drawn up by ministers advised by Civil Servants both of whom enjoy index-linked, earnings-related pensions. As I am a pensioner I should not be affected by them, but I should like to know the views of employees who would. Yours faithfully, M. Y. COBB, Northanger, Colekitch Lane, Goshall, Surrey

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Grounds for anger in schoolroom

From the Headmaster of Stunground School

Sir, A fine young mathematics teacher at my school, two years into the profession, is to attend an in-service course at Cambridge. The request, she has already a very good degree, the extra study will help implement a new scheme but will not improve her qualifications or prospects in the slightest.

Her contribution to the cost will be almost £50. Her net monthly income is £380. As a single person paying mortgage, rates, heating and telephone from one salary she has about £60 a month available for food, clothing, petrol and discretionary spending.

She has to listen to comments on her "need" to accept a 2 per cent pay cut this year; she is denounced with her colleagues on a regular basis as in need of appraisal and reform. She has freely given her lunch times and evenings for nothing, now local authorities want her voluntary labour written into a contract.

Her classroom seldom contains fewer than 30 pupils. Her "action" this year is to leave the school at lunchtime and to join her NUT colleagues in not attending parents' evenings.

I am much more indignant about her experience than she is; I am constantly angry that the energetic and altruistic men and women who work with me are so disgraced and disregarded. I weep bitter tears of frustration that no reasoning of mine will shake the ignorance and occasional malice of politicians and newspaper editors.

Our leaders are rich enough to be detached about money and too foolish to see where their daily slander leads.

Yours sincerely, B. C. BARKER, Headmaster, Stunground School, Peterborough Road, Farret, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, June 12.

Future of universities

From Professor Terence R. Lee

Sir, Max Taylor is right, of course, in claiming (May 27) that what is taught at the universities is mainly intellectual. Many young graduates, not surprisingly, remain inept in the "practical virtues" and the "generalized skills of getting things done" to which he refers. It is even sadder that many people, graduates or otherwise, signify fail to acquire these after long years in industry. Regrettably, the time affordable on first degrees at university in this country is hardly sufficient for the integrated training of both intellectual and practical skills and virtues. A notable exception is the four-year sandwich degree course favoured by my own and a few other universities, but its general adoption would cost money. So would other means of extending training in this way. Postgraduate masters' degrees frequently meet the criteria, but there are few grants available and students cannot afford fees.

Until there is a change of policy, perhaps we could look to industry to adjust its expectations and to learn that new graduates, though intelligent and earnest, are bound to be inept in matters in which they have been denied previous experience. Industry, which so frequently trumpets its excellence in the qualities extolled by Mr Taylor, should have little difficulty in inculcating them during the first few years of employment. Indeed, the ample possession of these qualities by the industrialist should point him to both the need and the means.

Universities, if properly supported, will continue their specialist role in training the intellects of their students (an essential if not sufficient requirement) and acting as a wellspring and reservoir of intellectual matters for the community as a whole. Sadly, the threatened further cuts in investment will certainly curtail all these forms of productivity. Yours sincerely, TERENCE LEE, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, May 29.

Levin and the NUJ

From the Hon General Treasurer of the National Union of Journalists

Sir, Bernard Levin is entitled to his opinions, but he should not disfigure the truth in pursuit of personal prejudice. The latest tirade against his union, the National Union of Journalists (June 7), presents a monstrous image of victimisation by a ruthless coterie of union officers — of which I am alleged to be one — against their General Secretary. To justify this charge Levin has deployed conjecture, distortion and inaccuracy. He has relied on hearsay and the barest amount of documentation.

First, Levin outlines a problem of NUJ staff entering the service of the union late and thus requiring that their pensions be topped up on retirement. He says "in 1980 a decision was taken to put the union's most responsible employees on a proper pension basis". This is untrue. There is no record of such a decision.

Levin says that the then General Treasurer, John Devine, decided to implement this decision. This is untrue. John Devine did not become union treasurer until 1982.

Levin says that at a NEC meeting on December 20 last year serious complaints raised by staff pension schemes trustee Henry Bate were raised without advance warning to NEC members. This is untrue. On receipt of Bate's letter I wrote to General Secretary, Ken Ashton, and made it clear that I intended to put Bate's complaints, addressed to the NEC, to the December 20 meeting.

Freedom of action in housing market

From Mr Peter Horden, MP for Horsham (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader (June 12) makes the case decisively for the repeal of the Rent Act, at any rate for first-time lets. There is another aspect, however, which seems to me to strengthen the case still further.

Many young people from the North come South in search of work, but find nowhere to live. The local authorities in the South have a statutory duty to find them accommodation, which they fulfil by finding bed-and-breakfast rooms, paying up to £30 a week at present.

The cost to the taxpayer of providing bed-and-breakfast has soared, in 1979 it was £52 million. It is hard to see what possible payment for this kind of accommodation, which is often disgraceful, is £52 a week, and the Government proposes a ceiling in London of £70 a week. All that will happen is that more people will be crammed into smaller space, and the cost to the taxpayer will continue to grow.

It is hard to see what possible objection there could be to allowing those who have property, and those who wish to pay rent for somewhere to live, to come together and agree a rent for a new let. People could then move freely to find work, as they do in virtually every other country.

The cost to the taxpayer would, in time, fall, because the landlord would be taxed on his earnings, as would his tenant, who would have found a job, possibly for the first time. The longer the present situation is allowed to continue, the longer will remain the division between North and South.

Yours faithfully, PETER HORDEN, House of Commons.

Evil in the air

From Mr Jeremy Gainsford

Sir, The image of a German air hostess obeying orders to sing to her passengers with "Jewish-sounding names" (report, June 18) is both an uncomfortable and a distasteful one. Such a distinction is even more alarming in view of the inevitably perilous consequences for those unfortunate passengers thus selected.

I appreciate that fear and self-preservation are potent forces, often overwhelmingly so, but if this selection was indeed made by a member of the airline staff whose concern must be for the welfare of all her passengers, then to confuse her actions with heroism is to subscribe to the twisted language that confers the title of "Justice Minister" upon the very man who now holds the bulk of the hostages captive in Beirut. Yours sincerely, J. GAINSFORD, 31 York Terrace East, NW1.

Enforced exodus

From Dr E. K. Banakas

Sir, In violation of both the letter and the spirit of the Lausanne treaties of 1923 for the protection of religious minorities in Greece and Turkey, the Turkish authorities have ordered, and are proceeding with, the demolition of one of the oldest and more beautiful Christian monuments of Constantinople (Istanbul), i.e., the Church of St George of Malatya. Since 1955 the systematic persecution and unofficial oppression of the Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Jewish minorities in Istanbul has caused an unparalleled exodus of persons belonging to these communities to Greece and Israel. From approximately 140,000 in 1956, Greek Orthodox in Istanbul number today only 4,000, according to a statement by Patriarch Demetrios to the Turkish daily *Milliyet*.

On the contrary, the Turkish minority in Greece never had any problems and are flourishing, having just elected two members in the new Greek Parliament. Very soon the Greeks of Istanbul will be unable to have any meaningful presence in this historic city. The official Turkish aim, which, have been achieved, is anybody in the West interested? Yours faithfully, E. K. BANAKAS, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex.

Levin's statement that at this meeting "it was alleged that Ashton had tried to get his pension raised, leaving his colleagues in the dark" is preposterous. No such statement was made. Decisions on the pension affair at the December 20 meeting were agreed unanimously, with many supporters of Ken Ashton among those voting. Levin says "the White-Eccleson faction... suspended Ashton from his duties... in full breach of the union's rules". This is untrue. Ashton was suspended by the NEC having had legal advice that it was within their powers to do so. Ken Ashton himself has never disputed this.

Levin says that the December 20 meeting decided that the inquiry should be conducted by the chairman of the NEC's "four principal committees". But not, as it happened, the chairman of the most important committee, Harry Conroy. Wrong again. The NEC decided that the chairman of the union's three main committees should conduct the inquiry. Mr Conroy is chairman of the NEC's education committee.

Levin says that I said it would be embarrassing for Conroy "to sit in judgement" on Ashton. This is untrue.

Levin says that at the NEC meeting of January 25 this year I moved a motion to deny NEC members seeing legal advice. This is untrue. There was a motion that legal advice should be delivered orally, but it was not proposed by me.

These are only some of the factual inaccuracies which have been used to build up the totally false

From Mr Philip J. Peck

Sir, The writer of the diatribe against tenants (leading article, June 12) might like to comment on the following.

An elderly lady, spinster, who worked all her adult life until retirement in her mid-60s, has recently been informed by her landlords, the latest in a long line of speculative individuals and companies, that a rent tribunal has increased her rent by £6.50 per week over and above the £2 odd awarded by the "fair rent officer".

Her original tenancy agreement, dated February 1, 1943, let her flat in Wembley to her for £87 per annum. This sum included rent, rates, water rates and service charges. This figure prevailed until 1951.

Today, this same flat costs her £2,418.41p per annum, an increase nearly 28 times the original figure. What kind of protection has this lady, nearly 83 years old, received from the Rent Acts? Four fifths of her small income is swallowed by her flat charges. Most of the tenants are elderly; one particularly impoverished lady hasn't enough left to even pay the increase and for years has lived on subsistence rations.

This lady has a file of correspondence from MPs and secretaries of state, none of whose responses have been of the slightest help in curtailing the rapacious landlords.

Cosseted tenants indeed! Good God, Sir! Wake up!

Yours faithfully, PHILIP J. PECK, 53 Ponsonby Place, SW1, June 17.

Letter from a pilot

From Group Captain Ronald L. S. Coulson

Sir, Your reprint of Pilot Officer Rosemary's letter to his mother (June 18) "On this day" column, June 18) brought back vivid memories of a lively, insouciant young officer who, on the surface, was quite the unlikely member of the squadron to write such a letter.

He possessed tremendous vitality and a seemingly insatiable urge to enjoy every moment of life to the full — almost as if he did have a premonition, although he denies this in his letter. His nerve and high spirits were reflected in his flying and I can still recall quite clearly the one occasion on which we shared the same aircraft.

My log book records that on October 6, 1939, we flew out of Marham airfield, Norfolk in Wellington L4245 in order to carry out "formation flying and low attacks". The log does not reveal, however, that PO Rosemary literally flew the Wellington to its limits — almost as if he was putting himself to the test as well as the aircraft.

I am certain that when he and his crew met their deaths a few months later they went to the limits and probably beyond in order to ensure the success of their mission. In the interest of accuracy may I point out that the squadron in question was No 38(B), motto *Ante lucem* — "Before the dawn".

Yours sincerely, R. L. S. COULSON, The Paddock, Brampton Ash, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, June 18.

Out of bounds

From Mr Ronald Lever

Sir, Your third leader (June 19) describing the state of affairs at our national monument, Stonehenge, is the most sensible comment so far on the present troubles — and to a Wiltshireman is a real breath of fresh air and is to be applauded. Your comment of a festival of music, drugs and sex, is only an upgrading of the late A. P. Trotter's assessment in 1927 of charabancs, gramophones and beer! (*Antiquity*, vol. 1, p. 52).

Yours faithfully, RONALD LEVER, Reads Close, Teffont Magna, Salisbury, Wiltshire, June 19.

impression of a sophisticated conspiracy. However, stripped of Levin's economic imagination, the story becomes rather mundane. Here was a union trying to do something very simple: to establish whether or not a financial commitment in excess of £200,000 made in respect of just two individuals was properly authorised.

Levin helpfully quotes the exact record of the decision (running together reports made to three separate meetings spread over three months) but fails to point out that this information does not reveal the cost of the proposal to improve pensions, nor does it reveal that only two staff were affected, nor does it reveal their identities.

Levin fails to report that throughout the whole affair the NEC took advice from independent accountants and lawyers. He also ignores the fact that Ashton himself has accepted that the NEC acted properly in accordance with its duties under the union's rules.

For Levin to use this inaccurate and misleading portrait of the NUJ's business as a background to a personal intervention in the election of a new General Secretary is disgraceful. NUJ members are fed up with the waste of resources and disunity created by the sort of mud-splashing rhetoric of which Levin, late in the day, has decided to have his share.

Yours sincerely, AIDAN WHITE, Honorary General Treasurer, National Union of Journalists, 314 Gray's Inn Road, WC1, June 17.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 21 1837

William IV who reigned from June 1830 died on June 20 1837. That morning the new monarch Queen Victoria held her first Privy Council when she read a speech prepared by her ministers led by William Lamb, second Viscount Melbourne (1779-1848). The Times had never had a great opinion of him; his laissez-faire attitude, lack of sympathy with reform, his persecution of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and above all his opposition of the Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell, all these traits, as the article on the day following the Queen's accession, in the event the paper's "guardianship of the young Queen was exemplified."

[THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION]

We declare, then that nothing has yet happened to mitigate those apprehensions which will, the last fortnight, have come from day to day expressed of evil likely to befall the new reign. If the probable causes of it should not be well examined and prepared against.

The proceedings of yesterday have not dispelled our fears; but, on the contrary, have tended to enhance them. Subscribing to all that has been announced as to the correct and becoming manner on which Her Majesty, on this first performance of a public duty, read the declaration composed for her and demanded herself before the members of her Council, we are still bound to regard that declaration on the same constitutional ground which governs the construction of King's speeches to Parliament — as merely the declaration of the Minister by whom it was framed. And who is that Minister? No other than Lord Melbourne, the Whig ally of the Radical Joseph Hume, and the Protestant monarch of Great Britain. Has he (under the tuition of Middlesex Joseph) turned black into white? Has this Whig-Radical "Bishopian changed his skin?" — this "leper" of Popery his "angel"?

The speech of yesterday was Lord Melbourne's speech, and what was its character? Why, the greater portion of it was a string of common-places. "I am a part something worse, for I am a mixture of implacable conservatism and dangerous, because indefinite, pledges."

Lord Melbourne makes the young Queen congratulate herself on succeeding a monarch whose "desire to preserve the constitution of the laws and institutions of the country has rendered his name the object of general attachment and veneration."

Now, here is an assumption which involves a notorious falsehood. It is positively untrue that King WILLIAM desired to preserve the constitution of the laws and institutions of the country. One of those projects of church spoliation, both here and in Ireland, which in sundry direct as well as indirect forms it was the incessant scheme of Lord Melbourne and his colleagues to bring about the destruction of the Crown, King WILLIAM, it is notorious, would, had he felt strong enough, have released himself from the "ameliorations" and from the Ministers too — that he tolerated either arose from his being weakly minded, and yet this unhappy condition of the late SOVEREIGN is indignantly misrepresented to the young Queen by Lord Melbourne, who imposes it upon Her Majesty as a state of things which corresponds to her obligations as Queen VICTORIA's subject, and not, unless we be much mistaken, will she remain long without herself detecting it.

But again, let the people of England but imagine the honour and generosity of a Cabinet who would dare to involve their Sovereign at the very first hour of her reign, and before she could by possibility have earned the force or consequence of such an obligation, in an implicit pledge to follow the example of her predecessor, by levying her name to that series of revolutionary changes which these designing Ministers have been endeavouring to place in the name of "amelioration." We have seldom heard of any political expedient more unprincipled, more treacherous, or unfeeling than this. It is an actual trepanning of their consciences into a course of policy subservient to their own selfish interests, and an abuse more glaring than we have ever before witnessed of that confidence which a helpless Prince has been compelled to place in a band of unscrupulous advisers. We call upon our countrymen to watch the progress of these machinations, and then to mark their issue. We appeal to the Conservative spirit and wisdom of the realm to rouse themselves, and save the laws and religion of the people of England from destruction. They have not many weeks to prepare. With a new Parliament, jobbed by a Ministry decided to be the worst since the reign of their new SOVEREIGN, and with an overwhelming creation of rable Peers, what obstacle, let us ask, is there in the way of these men to an entire and irretrievable overthrow of the British monarchy?

Beating off bees

From Mr John A. Cooper

Sir, Mr Kass (June 15) need not have worried, for there is no such thing as a swarm of angry bees. A swarm is invariably in a state bordering on ecstasy, for they are all going on their holidays — if not their honeymoon.

Each one carries haversack rations for about three days; many carry comb-building material so that they can start building their new home; that very night, the weather forecast is good — otherwise they certainly would not have swarmed — and they are following the scouts who have already located their new home and are now leading them to it.

If they appeared to be following Mr Kass, it can only have been because he was inadvertently between the scouts and the following swarm.

The best thing to do under these circumstances is to step aside and wave as they go past. Yours faithfully, JOHN A. COOPER, 1 Church Street, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Miss Hepburn takes command

Grace Quigley (15)

Classic Haymarket

Chinese Boxes (18)

Classic Tottenham Court Road

Our Story (15)

Lumière

Runaway (15)

Leicester Square Theatre

Night of the Comet (15)

Cinecanta Panton Street

In the high summer of British film, the week's new films offer little incentive to abandon television. The only thing between kids' comics from America and the more sophisticated art films from Europe is Grace Quigley, a whimsical black comedy directed by Anthony Harvey from a screenplay by A. Martin Zweiback.

It is a Runyonesque collision of odd characters. Katharine Hepburn is a lonely and somewhat distressed old widow who, following a chance encounter with a professional gunman (Nick Nolte), has the idea of going into business with him to provide a service for her numerous old neighbours who would appreciate a swift helping hand out of this vale of tears. The partnership enlarges the ethical notions of each of them, and, while the gunman finds a surrogate mother, the old lady acquires a surrogate son — the sentimentality also is Runyonesque.

If there is some uncertainty about the pitch of the comedy, it hardly matters: the undoubted Katharine Hepburn, beautifully type-cast as the disappointed but doughty old widow, takes firm command of the situation. Always a sporting team-worker, she plays admirably against Nolte, and

still leaves space for some engaging cameos by a troupe of elderly and unfamiliar character players.

Christopher Petit is a former *Time* critic who turned film-maker, as a protégé and disciple of the German director Wim Wenders, with *Radio On*. More fortunate than other new British directors in finding financial backing, he followed this with a P. D. James adaptation, *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman*, and two films shot in Berlin, revealing his romantic fascination with the city, *Flight to Berlin* and now *Chinese Boxes*.

The Berlin films show him digging in deeper in a particularly arid theoretical position. His method is to take all the paraphernalia of the thriller — guns, murders, cars, drug racks, corpses, *femmes fatales*, shabby bar-rooms, abandoned warehouses — but to put them together in a way that denies conventional methods of achieving suspense through narrative. The alternative to suspense turns out to be torturing the viewer. Petit would probably justify the *non sequiturs* and confusions as deliberately enigmatic: the synopsis of *Chinese Boxes* is full of "perhaps".

In the same way he would probably explain as an alienation effect his rejection of conventional character: the figures in his films are symbols or ciphers; their dialogue is stylized, literary and elliptical; the performances are posturing rather than acting. The result is tiring and tiresome for the spectator, who is likely to be irritated into dismissing as film-school pretension the self-consciously composed images, the naive political allusions and metaphors and the scenario at large — co-written by Petit and L. M. Kit Carson, who worked with Wenders on *Paris, Texas*.

In a new publication, *British Cinema Now*, the British Film Institute, which has championed Petit's career and part-financed *Flight to Berlin*, takes the London review for their lack of appreciation. (The Institute does not credit us with the title of "critics" since we do not use its decreed high-theory critical line.) What we fail to observe, says the BFI, is that Petit's

work involves "a whole series of pairings and oppositions... its interest as the site of several disjunctions (and therefore the question it poses for cinema) goes unremarked". Very likely.

Bernard Blier's *Notre Histoire* last year won "Césars" (the annual national film awards) for his own screenplay and for Alain Delon's performance — which proves no more than that the French cinema is in a bad way. Blier has moved from commercial comedies like *Les Val-séuses* and *Préparez vos Mouchoirs* to talky, stagey pieces like *My Best Friend's Girl*, which opened in London a couple of weeks ago and, more recently and much more tediously, *Our Story*.

It is the heavy dream of an estranged husband, who imagines a night of being seduced by a rural *femme fatale* and entangled with the army of men who have preceded him in her fickle favour. After the endless twists of the tale, the banal pay-off comes as a positive relief. Blier's direction turns Alain Delon (who is not ageing gracefully) and Nathalie Delon into remarkably dull performers.

A regular pattern of current American commercial cinema is to transform the sources of adult paranoia into juvenile comic strip. Michael Crichton, the writer-director of *Runaway*, returns to the terror of malevolently malfunctioning technology, his theme as author of *The Terminal Man* and director of *Westworld*. In his new film he imagines a future in which the police are obliged to maintain a special unit to deal with berserk robots.

Tom Selleck and Cynthia Rhodes are a stereotype police movie team, up against a stereotype demonic villain (Gene Simmons), the menacing leader of the rock group Kiss) who is attempting to destroy society by tampering with the robots. The whole scenario, in fact, is built on stereotypes, and quite foolish unless you have a weakness for the kind of gadgetry (including robot tarantulas) which figures more importantly than human beings in the scenario.



Surrogate mother and son: the undoubted Katharine Hepburn with Nick Nolte in *Grace Quigley*

Night of the Comet is a low-budget pastiche of every end-of-the-world science-fiction picture. The population of California is reduced to orange dust, except for two spirited teenage girls, a handsome trucker, gangs of maddened, marauding mutants with nastily decaying faces and a group of villainous scientists bent on draining the life-blood from

the healthy survivors for their own use. It is all done tongue-in-cheek, which is a stance of dubious merit, tending merely to add cynicism to silliness. The best things in the film are the raw colours of the photography and Tom Perry's energetic rock score.

David Robinson

Concert

RPO/Previn

Festival Hall

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra has certainly got itself well organized. The current André Previn Music Festival, to welcome (and focus attention on) the RPO's new music director, mixes the maestro with Ravi Shankar, Oscar Peterson, Ella Fitzgerald and all sorts of crowd-pulling events which have virtually taken over the South Bank for a fortnight. (While Previn conducted in the Festival Hall on Wednesday, Mike Westbrook was unveiling jazz variations on themes by Rossini next door.)

This is not quite what we critics mean when we bore on about coherent South Bank planning, but it certainly makes visible nonsense of the Arts Council's contention that the RPO need not exist. It was never actually named as the orchestra to be axed in the "Glory of the Garden" strategy but was clearly the target. With sponsorship from Bankers Trust, sales of "Hooked on Classics" topping 10 million, and a television music director, the RPO can presumably withstand even the 30 per cent cut in Arts Council grant which through the London Orchestral Concerts Board has been doled out to all the orchestras this year.

Last night's event was another instalment in the managerial success story, for, besides repeating the Walton First Symphony which was in the series's opening concert on Sunday, Previn had the bright lights of television on hand to record Vladimir Ashkenazy in Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto (rather than the Rachmaninov Third originally promised for this date), no doubt for inclusion in their new series *The Concerto*, son of *The Symphony*.

Perhaps as a result of the cameras, Ashkenazy offered an unusually careful and low key account of the work, smoothing over many of the edges in Beethoven's writing. The first movement's opening chords are rightly solemnly harmonious, but by the time one reaches the cascades of triplets with syncopated accents underneath, which Charles Rosen identifies as the point of most active harmonic pulse in the movement, we surely need something more brittle than Ashkenazy's sweet roundness and Previn's rounded beat. Not until the last movement cadenza was Ashkenazy really forceful and communicative. Previn offered a very conventional accompaniment, and the orchestral sound was sludgy.

Nicholas Kenyon

London débuts

The Brazilian cellist Antonio Meneses is fortunate in having the pianist Cristina Ortiz as his duo partner, and, though their collaboration sparked off several idiosyncratic episodes, it would be facile to ascribe the strains to their Latin temperaments. But it is certainly in playing demanding passionate warmth and big long lines that Meneses is at his strongest. His rather asphyxiating programme of three romantic sonatas was designed to exploit his undoubted sincerity and powers of expression rather than virtuosity per se. It was a pity that Ortiz often thwarted his intentions by clinging to centre stage and treating the piano part of the Chopin Sonata as if it was Debussy. However, in the Rachmaninov G minor both artists revelled in the lush, polyphonic and created a memorably hypnotic spell.

The Klempner Trio could scarcely have a more distinguished name, and its members, the Americans Erik Klempner, Ronald Gordon Crutcher and Britain's Ronald Back, certainly deserve recognition in the established repertoire. At present Mr Back's piano playing provides the strong base, the violinist Miss Klempner being a little inconsistent.

It was Beethoven's B flat Trio, Op. 11, one of the

composer's quirkiest works, that began the programme, and the final two movements soon affirmed the group's ability to convey the momentum of the music. Mr Back can be too strident occasionally, but his deft fingers in the *Tema con variazioni* finale exactly caught the exuberance that is inherent in Beethoven's score. One had to wait until the Mendelssohn D minor Trio before the calibre of Mr Crutcher's cello playing could be fully sampled.

The Ambache Chamber Orchestra was founded by the pianist Diana Ambache, and she appears with the ensemble in concertos, but not as conductor. It is their experienced leader Adrian Levine who provides the cues, and within the repertoire that they tackle they are undeniably impressive. Hindemith's Five Pieces for String Orchestra have movements that range from a dark sobriety to the effervescence of a pastiche based on a Bach violin concerto, and the ensemble could be heard in a wide variety of string writing. They know how to amass tone and to work as one instrument. Their support in Mozart's A major Piano Concerto, K414, was exemplary.

James Methuen-Campbell

Theatre

Runyon's humanism goes by the board

Guys and Dolls

Prince of Wales

What this has to do with Damon Runyon is anybody's guess. Sure, the whimsically named losers and cheaters are here, and sure the plot line recognizably derives from half a dozen of the old back stories. But the essence of Runyon — at least outside the purview of anal-fixed sociologists and intellectually deprived historians of costume — was his use of a highly stylized prose form to render the down side of life in a way that was psychologically true. He may not have been a great artist but he certainly was a great humanist.

All this necessarily goes by the board when his speech is put into the mouths of all-round centerfingers whose chief concern is to get to the next musical number. Gangsters with a song in their hearts and a gat in their pockets are a resounding bore, and here we have a stageful of them.

Of course, it must help if you like the music and lyrics. Frank

Loesser's effusion is jaunty, bummable, intensely unmoving, a kind of kindergarten exercise. I wish it could be said that his melodies were at least memorable, but last night the cast did the coda of "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat" four times and I have forgotten the tune already.

The aptness of the show's title strikes you almost at once. What, for instance, does David Healy's Niche-Niche Johnson remind you of this well-padded piece that you constantly expect to see strutting burst out of a gay? Right. And how about Lulu's Miss Adelaide, with its bubbly hair, mechanical movements and eyes that go up and down? A doll.

When I realize I am old enough to remember Lulu I start to feel my age. I also remember how I never could abide that marshmallow-and-sandpaper voice with its breathy promise of all-embracing cuteness. And it is more depressing yet to note that these attributes actually serve her remarkably well in this role.

Richard Eyre's production

leans heavily on the exuberance of a crisply drilled company and on extravagant sets and lighting. One could ask why the men's trouser-bottoms are nothing like wide enough for the period — but, more pertinently, why the National Theatre persists in

presenting meretricious nonsense like this when it can only encourage American tourists to dog the capital's transport system demanding directions to Piccadilly Square.

Martin Cropper

In Time of Strife

Half Moon

Uncarried from the yellowing archives of the Workers' Theatre Movement, Joe Corrie's treatment of the mining aftermath of the General Strike is no more calculated to boost the morale of the strikers than to bring comfort to the bosses.

A miner himself, who abandoned the pits after the appearance of this play in 1927, Corrie began writing for his own workmates who toured Scotland as the Bowhill Village Players at the Bowhill Village. (For details see Raphael Samuel's illuminating *Theatre of the Left 1880-1935*, Routledge, £8.95). There is no question of where his heart lay. But what he shows in this

searing first-hand account of one strike-bound family is a steady if fruitless process of attrition.

Already out for six months, the family are reduced to jumble-sale clothes and bread and margarine. A daughter loses her fiancé when he turns blackleg in the hope of saving enough to emigrate with her. A close neighbour dies of malnutrition. A labour leader gets a three-year prison sentence. In the end, the men give in and drift back to the pit, having gained nothing.

It is a bitter story told by a generalist man. There are short-sighted people on Corrie's stage but no enemies or traitors. Even Baxter, the wretched blackleg, convinces himself that he was acting for the best.

Nor are there any heroes. The young son, who bangs on about the revolution, verges on comic relief; and when he proclaims the dictatorship of the proletariat neither he nor anybody else can explain what that means. As for Joe, the head of the household, he may keep up his bloody-minded attendance on the picket line, but almost his first words are a denunciation of Russia and his union leaders.

Marvellously played by the witty, fire-breathing Tom Watson, he emerges as an embodiment of Scottish working-class values far too complex to be contained in any ideology. Firmly warning a bereaved neighbour off the drink, he goes berserk when his son helpfully pours the whisky down the drain.

As that may suggest, *In Time of Strife* is rich in the comedy of domestic contradictions, to which the director David Hayman has brilliantly added a Hogmanay flashback (also by Corrie) showing how the family celebrated New Year in days before the strike. The Fife dialect of this 7.84 Scotland production is difficult but not impenetrable, and the company have done us a service by bringing the play to London.

Irving Wardle

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Television

Docility betrayed

There is a peculiar kind of ersatz social sophistication to be acquired by watching television; this regrettably diminished the suspense of Jessie Kesson's fine play *You've Never Slept in Mine* (BBC2).

The drama began with the mystery of a lumpy teenage girl dragged from her screaming family to an Assessment Centre occupied by petty criminals. Thanks to a quirk of collective media consciousness, television has paid an unusual amount of attention to incest and the sexual abuse of children in the last few weeks and, with the benefit of this education, it was easy to divine the reason why this docile, withdrawn girl was awarded sanctuary in such company.

This was a short play, which ran only 45 minutes but nevertheless covered a great deal of ground. Once she had confessed the shame of her past and her confusion at causing the break-up of her own family, the girl established a fragile friendship with a much more glamorous detainee, Sharon Houston and Michelle Scott both gave excellent perform-

ances as the withdrawn, anti-social adolescents. At the end of the play the pretty girl absconded to join her boyfriend in Newcastle and we were left with a clear indication that this betrayal had set the young incest victim on the road to criminality.

Easier in the evening BBC2's *Dance International* gave the first part of an American-made, biography of George Balanchine. Despite the wealth of archive material, it was a great pity that the programme had not been made outside the choreographer's adopted country. That tragic American combination of crippling awe before artistic talent and brute incomprehension of creative work reduced the achievements of the man who inherited the mantle of Marius Petipa to little more than a brisk list of credits.

There should have been a metaphor for the New World in the creation, by a Russian, of a choreographic style which perfectly expresses the grandeur, energy and spirit of America, but this documentary did not remark upon it.

Celia Brayfield

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1	British Airways	287.5	285.0	287.5	287.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2	British Petroleum	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3	British Telecom	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4	British Steel	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5	British Sugar	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6	British United	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7	British Water	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
8	British Airways	287.5	285.0	287.5	287.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
9	British Petroleum	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
10	British Telecom	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11	British Steel	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
12	British Sugar	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
13	British United	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	British Water	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	British Airways	287.5	285.0	287.5	287.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	British Petroleum	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17	British Telecom	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18	British Steel	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19	British Sugar	125.0	124.0	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth FleetSharp change of gear
in US growth figures

The hints of growth with which American Commerce Department steadied the dollar on Wednesday were amplified by yesterday's "flash" estimate of output in the second quarter.

The American economy rebounded more strongly than expected, growing at an annual rate of 3.1 per cent in April-June. First-quarter growth was simultaneously revised down from 0.7 per cent to an even more dismal 0.3 per cent. The dollar bounced up 4 pence against the mark in early trading and the pound fell back against the dollar too. The sterling index closed in London below 80 again.

Part of the explanation for the sharp change of gear in the growth figures lies in an opposite change in inflation. In the second quarter, the Commerce Department estimates the GNP deflator was rising at an annual rate of only 3.2 per cent; for the first quarter its estimate is a good deal higher. Thus the path for the nominal national output has not changed nearly as much as the estimates for "real" output would suggest - a reason for viewing these quarter-to-quarter figures with some caution.

The upturn in second-quarter activity is based on the assumptions that sales are increasing, inventories are being reduced, the record US trade deficit is slowing, and business spending is increasing sharply. But even if the "flash" estimate proves more accurate than it has in recent

quarters, growth is still not strong enough to meet the Reagan Administration's official target of 3.9 per cent for all of 1985.

Nonetheless, the figures were welcome news to the White House which has grown increasingly concerned by the sharp downturn in American manufacturing. And officials believe they have looser monetary reins to thank. Had it not been for stimulative action by the Federal Reserve Board, their forecasts would not be so optimistic.

Now Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Commerce Secretary, is saying he believes "the worst of the slowdown is over" and that growth should pick up sharply by the end of the summer. Even so, markets still anticipate a further stimulus from the Fed, with another cut in the discount rate to 7 per cent.

However, the federal funds rate, which had dropped to 6½ per cent on Wednesday, was back up to 7¼ per cent in mid-morning trading. But other short-term yields were largely unaffected by the growth figures. The yield on 90-day Treasury bills remained at 6.78 after the announcement yesterday morning.

But well before the GNP figure was published, there were signs that the bond rally is over for the time being. On June 3, the September T-bond contract was 77.8. By yesterday, it was 77.3.

Bigger private pension needed

Like everything else to do with his social security reviews, the financial implications of Mr Norman Fowler's decision to phase out the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) have not been fully revealed. But the Social Services Secretary did let slip a few figures earlier this week, and more detailed calculations published yesterday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies take the story further.

Mr Fowler admitted that savings from the abolition of Serps would build up only slowly; the IFS puts this rather more starkly. There are no significant savings this century; even by 2010, Mr Fowler's proposals will knock only £2 billion off the Serps bill, which by then would be running at an annual £10 billion. By 40 years from now, on Mr Fowler's estimates, the phasing out of Serps will save £11.5 billion; and by 50 years from now, the savings will amount to £17 billion. The IFS calculations, which suggest that phasing out Serps will cut the bill from £24 billion to only £2 billion in 2040, follow much the same pattern.

Of more interest to today's taxpayers, complete abolition would have saved more money: £2 billion a year by the end of the century. It is the bribe to the middle-aged, who retain not only existing accrued Serps rights but are also to be credited with more that they have not contributed towards, which makes phasing out expensive.

Younger people, meanwhile, will end up with lower pensions than they would

have received from Serps unless they take out bigger private pension policies than the minimum laid down by the Fowler plan.

Mr Fowler proposes that all but the very youngest workers should be obliged to contribute at least 2 per cent of pay, with their employers contributing the same, by the end of the three-year transitional phase beginning in 1987. Making various reasonable assumptions about yields and earnings, the IFS calculates that, on average, those aged 30 in 1987 could only build up a pension worth 84 per cent of what they could have expected from Serps, with contributions totalling 4 per cent of pay. This is hardly surprising since the fundamental reason for the abolition of Serps was its cost.

Furthermore, these calculations do not allow for the survivors' benefits built into Serps, which added substantially to its cost. Adding these on, the 4 per cent minimum looks even more inadequate; the IFS calculates that it would provide those aged 30 in 1987 with only 67 per cent of what they could have expected from Serps.

There is nothing to stop employees and employers contributing much more, since tax relief is available. But the Government clearly kept the minimum low to stop employers complaining that phasing out Serps was costing them money. It must do so, however, if their employees are not to end up with lower pensions.

Hutton top men 'knew of fraud'

From Mike Graham, New York

Internal E. F. Hutton documents released by a House of Representatives sub-committee in Washington show that top management officials in the company were aware of fraudulent use of cheques to save interest payments as early as 1981.

The documents formed part of a hearing attended by Robert Fomon, E. F. Hutton's chairman, and other top Hutton officials, all of whom maintained that management did not know the practices until 1982 when they were immediately stopped.

But a document presented at the hearing indicated that some regional officers were still operating the overdraft scheme less than a month before the brokerage giant pleaded guilty to 2,000 counts of fraud in May of this year. The company admitted drawing unbacked cheques on one account and paying them with another to avoid interest charges.

One memo, written in April 1982 from one Hutton branch manager to another, read: "I believe these practices are encouraged by the firm and are in fact identical to what the firm practices on a national basis. Specifically, from time to time, we will draw not only deposits plus anticipated deposits, but also bogus deposits."

Executives at national level were said by the sub-committee to have known about the "regretted overdrafting" policy being implemented by many branch managers.

Since the case, Hutton has announced several personnel changes, said it had tightened the controls and had fired a former US attorney general to conduct an internal investigation.

Minet 'not responsible for agency losses'

By Alison Eadie

Mr Ray Pettitt, the chairman of Minet Holdings which owns the troubled Lloyd's agency Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies, has sent a strongly worded letter to shareholders, staff and clients of Minet denying all responsibility for the £130 million losses facing RBUA "names", or members.

He said the problems of some names had become so great that the protection of Minet's shareholders' funds was paramount. Minet has provided £16 million of shareholders' funds so far, £8.3 million of which is to close down RBUA and defend potential lawsuits.

Suggestions that Minet should try to organize a loan for names were dismissed as impractical - Minet's net assets are only £40 million.

Some 350 of the worst hit names, who have paid for the accountancy firm of Price Waterhouse to investigate the reasons for the losses, will receive a 45-page report from the accountants tomorrow.

The report will co-ordinate the losses are part and parcel of the misappropriation of £40 million of names' money by former executives of the agency.

Many names are unable or unwilling to meet the £63 million cash call, which they have to pay by July 31 to fund the losses. Counsel's opinion, sought by a steering committee of names, indicates that names may have good legal grounds for refusing to meet the cash call.

White Paper to give Bank wider investigative powers

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Extensive new powers for the Bank of England and a shake-up of its supervision department were among the changes announced yesterday by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, because of the Johnson Matthey Bankers affair.

The Chancellor said he would be publishing a White Paper later this year with the aim of bringing a new Banking Bill before Parliament soon as possible. But a number of the measures do not need legislation and are already being implemented.

Measures have already been taken to strengthen the banking supervision department at the Bank of England and the person responsible for supervising JMB has been moved to another department. Since September, when JMB was bailed out, the numbers have been increased by up to 15 and the number of

analysis has gone up by seven to 100.

An extra deputy head has also been appointed to the division and plans are under way to increase the number of professional accountants and the number of secondments in both directions, between commercial banks and the division.

Mr Sidney Procter, who retires in three months from chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, is also becoming a part-time adviser on supervision to the Bank of England.

Steps are being taken to allow auditors and the Bank supervisors to talk to each other on a regular basis. Legal and confidentiality restraints now prevent this but the law is to be changed to remove this obstacle. Meanwhile, it will be circumvented by obtaining the agreement of the bank concerned.

The Chancellor also announced that the present distinction between recognized banks and licensed deposit takers, one of the cornerstones of the 1979 Banking Act, would be abolished, and the Bank of England would be given equally wide powers to demand information from or investigate any authorized bank.

The Bank of England now has wider supervisory powers over licensed deposit takers, and Bank of England officials believe this contributed to the failure to spot the looming disaster at JMB, which was a recognized bank.

The Bank of England may also be given powers to ask auditors to check the regular statistical returns which banks have to provide and to force banks to have a second audit if there are signs that the bank's auditors are not doing their job properly. Tighter procedures for banks which make late returns are also on the cards.

Other proposals put forward by the committee, headed by Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, and which are likely to be adopted, are the introduction of more frequent visits by supervisors to banks; the carrying out of detailed investigations of banks more readily; increased monitoring by the Bank of control systems.

Tough new limits on large loans are also being introduced. In future loans to a single borrower or group of borrowers should not exceed 25 per cent of bank's capital, except in exceptional circumstances, and loans of more than 10 per cent of a bank's capital will continue to be monitored.

Report extracts, page 21



Raymond Miquele: warning on redundancies

Arthur Bell may sue over bid

By Jeremy Warner

Arthur Bell is taking legal advice on whether it can sue Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, for alleged breach of contract. Morgan Grenfell helped Arthur Guinness launch a £305 million bid for the Scotch whisky group.

The company also met the Takeover Panel yesterday to ask if there was any recourse against Morgan Grenfell through the City Takeover code.

Mr Raymond Miquele, chairman of Arthur Bell, said he regarded Morgan Grenfell as the company's financial adviser up to the time when Guinness, which is also advised by the bank, made its hostile bid. "They behaved unethically in agreeing to act for one client against another," he said.

Morgan Grenfell said there was no case to answer since Mr Miquele had written to the bank in February 1983, saying that he wanted to wind down the business relationship, and that the bank had not been paid any fees by Arthur Bell since.

Mr Graham Walsh, head of corporate finance at Morgan Grenfell, said that both the major deals Arthur Bell has transacted in the past two years have been handled by Mr Patrick Spens and Mr Roger Cort who left Morgan Grenfell. "We certainly did not regard them as a client, and we have not had access to any form of confidential information on their business for some years."

Mr Miquele made his accusation against Morgan Grenfell at a press conference at which he said he would not be able to work under the Guinness regime should its bid prove successful "because I have seen the way they operate in the licensed trade and don't like it."

Mr Miquele claimed that since the offer he had received letters from most of the company's agents abroad expressing surprise and worry about the bid. He said that Bell's sales in the home market "would drop dramatically" leading to redundancies in Scotland if Guinness gained control.

Mr Miquele also strongly attacked Mr Bruce Saunders, chairman of Guinness. He accused him of being "on an ego trip" and of "empire building" by bidding for Arthur Bell.

Mr Saunders is in Scotland where he is attempting to quell Scottish hostility to the bid. There is a gathering campaign north of the border for it to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Britoil buys \$30m North Sea stake

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britoil, Britain's most aggressive oil exploration company, has paid \$30 million for a 16.5 per cent share of a North Sea oil licence from Texaco, and it is to launch a programme of drilling on the block, in an area east of the Shetlands already producing oil.

Texaco, which has held the licence since the early 1970s, has drilled seven exploration wells there. Britoil is to conduct seismic studies in the field, and it has the right to take up to 50 per cent of the block if further exploration and appraisal drilling is successful.

Britoil is still 49 per cent owned by the Government, with the City expecting that the Government holding will come on the market by early August.

Phoenix attacks dissidents

By Patricia Wheatcroft

The Phoenix Timber Group has hit back against the allegations of shareholders who are trying to take control of the board.

In a circular published yesterday the company said that the dissidents are inexperienced, have unproven track records and are endeavouring to take control of the company "on the cheap".

Behind the scenes, Phoenix is trying to prevent the rebels from being able to vote a vital 15 per cent stake in favour of their proposals.

Led by Phoenix director, Mr Michael Hermann, the rebels have called an extraordinary meeting for July 1 at which they want to vote three of their nominees on the board.

Anger as Bristow lets bid lapse

By Alison Eadie

The £89 million bid for Westland from Bristow Rotocraft, a consortium company led by Mr Alan Bristow, lapsed last night in highly unusual circumstances.

Although Bristow secured 57.72 per cent acceptance, including its own 1.4 per cent stake, it let the bid lapse on the technicality of not having received 90 per cent acceptance.

Bristow, however, decided yesterday not to go ahead with the bid because of information that came out in Westland's defence document and in later information the company gave.

Higher than expected stock levels of Westland 30 helicopters, the auditor's qualification of Westland's interim figures and general uncertainties about future orders apparently caused Bristow to rethink. Westland's share price fell heavily in the market yesterday to a low of 75p, against a bid price at 150p, before closing at 95p.

Westland had no intention from Bristow yesterday that it was considering lapsing the bid. Mr Nicholas Jones of Schroders, the merchant bank which advises Westland, said Bristow's behaviour was "an act of unprecedented irresponsibility".

IN BRIEF
Dollar up on pound

The dollar traded near the day's highs at mid-session in New York yesterday, buoyed by news of stronger-than-expected, non-inflationary growth in the second quarter. It was quoted at 3.0730/45 marks at midday, compared with 3.0375/95 on Wednesday night and 3.0580/00 yesterday morning.

The dollar was 2.7 cents better at the London close, at \$1.2792 against the pound and went on in New York to reach \$1.2753.

EEC steel aid

The European Commission has proposed rules for granting limited subsidies to EEC steel companies from the end of this year.

Fitch ahead

Fitch Lovel, the foods company, increased profits from £16.1 million to £16.3 million in the year to April 27. Sales fell from £471 million to £463 million. The final dividend is unchanged at 6.7p, making the total 9.7p (9.2p).

Tempos, page 23

Dawson International, the textiles group best known for its Fringle knitwear, increased pretax profits from £25.3 million to £25.1 million for the year to March 31. Turnover rose from £179.2 million to £265.6 million. A final dividend of 5.6p makes 8.2p for the year, against 7.3p and there is a one-for-two scrip issue.

LRC profits up

LRC International, the contraceptives to China group, has increased pretax profits for the year to March 31 to £18.8 million from £15 million. Turnover rose from £159.4 million to £196 million. A final dividend of 2.6p makes 3.9p for the year, against 3.5p last year.

PR takeover

Good Relations Group has bought Face Ronchetti, which supplies services to the communications industry. Good Relations will pay an initial £1.25 million, of which £100,000 will be in cash and the remainder in shares.

Land payout

British Land is to pay a final dividend of 7 pence, making 10 pence (8 pence) for the year to March 31, after pretax profits rose from £9 million to £11.8 million. Tempos, page 23

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COMMODITIES

The dollar made sharp gains yesterday, thanks to the stronger-than-expected US "flash" GNP estimate for the second quarter. The dollar closed at 3.9745 against the mark, a gain of 5.55 pfennigs on the overnight.

The renewed strength of the dollar saw sterling fall to \$1.2690 before it closed off the bottom at \$1.2792 after \$1.3065 overnight.

The pound's recent rises had been overdone, according to some dealers, and it was also sold off against the Continental currencies closing weaker against the Mark. For instance, at 3.9274 (3.9395).

The effective index relinquished 1.2 points to 79.8. Markets were quiet in the morning but nervous following the release of the data.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates day's range	Market rates close	1 month	3 month
New York	\$1 2710-1.2688	\$1 2785-1.2800	1 2840-1.2860
London	\$1 2740-1.2780	\$1 2782-1.2785	1 2810-1.2810
Amsterdam	4.115-4.1200	4.121-4.1200	4.125-4.1250
Antwerp	76.77-76.58	76.70-76.29	76.70-76.29
Basel	14.0716-14.1783	14.082-14.1280	14.082-14.1280
Brussels	1.2585-1.2585	1.2585-1.2585	1.2585-1.2585
Frankfurt	3.5108-3.5411	3.523-3.5218	3.523-3.5218
Lisbon	218.10-224.00	218.73-218.10	218.73-218.10
Madrid	202.50-202.50	202.50-202.50	202.50-202.50
Osaka	2481-10 2327-10	2479-2451-28	2479-2451-28
Paris	11 2289-11 1007	11 2289-11 1007	11 2289-11 1007
Japan	11 8210-11 0200	11 8545-11 0338	11 8545-11 0338
Stockholm	11 2440-11 1000	11 2340-11 2340	11 2340-11 2340
Switzerland	254-252-250	254-252-250	254-252-250
Vienna	27.30-27.73	27.30-27.73	27.30-27.73
Zurich	3.2020-3.2001	3.2020-3.2001	3.2020-3.2001

Starting index compared with 1975 was down 1.2 at 79.8 (the '75's was 81.0-79.8).

OTHER STERLING RATES

	U.S.
Argentina peso	1.9133-3.32718
Australia dollar	2.222-2.4602
Belgian dollar	7.054-7.058
Brazil cruzeiro	0.7825-0.8000
French franc	1.4-1.4
Cyprus pound	173.75-173.75
Hong Kong dollar	9.24-9.24
India rupee	15-15.05
Irish dollar	0.8890-0.8940
Israeli sheq (old)	1.3167-1.424
Malaysian dollar	1.3167-1.424

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

	U.S.
Ireland	1.0180-0.9910
Switzerland	2.222-2.2210
Sweden	2.4390-2.4390
Denmark	0.8845-0.885
Australia	1.940-1.9350
Canada	0.8400-0.8380
Germany	1.11-1.12
West Germany	1.0701-1.0700
France	1.0701-1.0700
Netherlands	3.4825-3.4825
Belgium	3.4825-3.4825
Italy	2.0025-2.0025

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Hanson looks set to sell Ever Ready

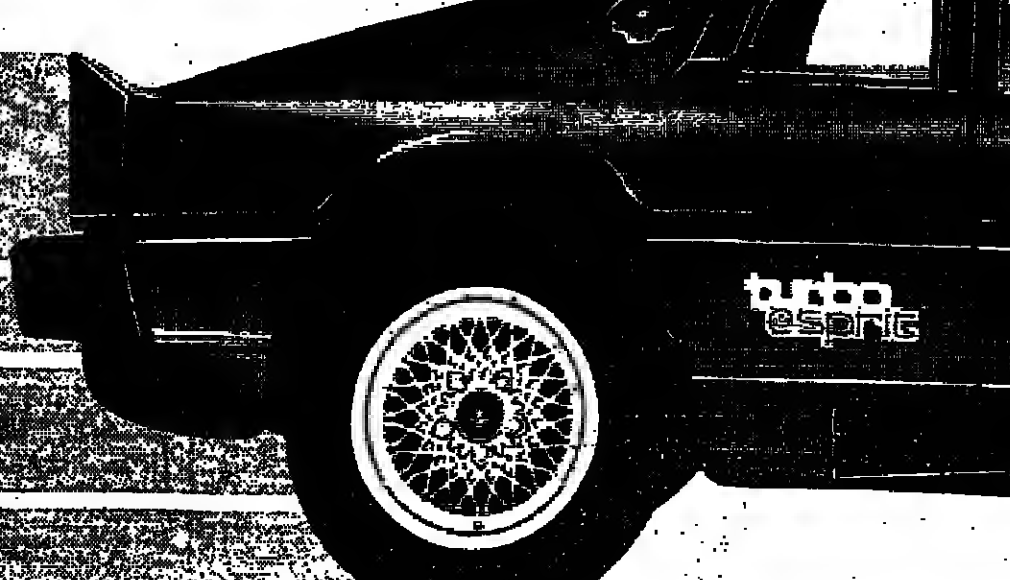
By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

As a shareholder, you are entitled to know how your money is being used. In the case of Lotus, the Chairman David Woods highlights that in 1987, the Directors' 110 million research and development budget is being utilised for overseas companies. "In other words," he says, "we are putting our money to work all around the world. We now have engineering centres in most of the three major car manufacturing areas. We are working closely with many other suppliers and component manufacturers."

During 1987, the share price of Lotus rose up 17% on the London Stock Exchange and company profits increased 30%. During 1988, 21 new models are planned and the company is planning further engineering work.

For more information, contact Accounts Department, Lotus Cars Ltd, 1000, The Secretary Group Lotus Car Companies plc, Weybridge, Surrey, TW20 2EX.

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TEMPUS

British Land plays to win after asset writedown

Mr John Ritblat, British Land supreme, bowed the property market a skilful goody yesterday with his latest asset value calculation. The share price of British Land eased back 5p to 137p, but such damage is trifling, compared to the question marks which now hover with even greater clarity over other quoted property companies.

After a string of relatively disappointing property revaluation figures, notably from Land Securities and Great Portland Estates, stock market readers were still over-optimistic about the British Land figures, hoping for about 215p in assets per share.

In the event, Mr Ritblat came up with 204p fully diluted and backed up his calculations mainly with the prepayment of two estate agents' signatures, but also a cogent statement about underlying rationale for the figures.

Certain properties have been written down by about £12 million, because the institutional investors are refusing to buy 50-year-old leasehold properties, particularly in the North of England and the Midlands. Such properties currently yield around 7½ per cent, and with the 5 per cent which the bulls are estimating, according to Mr Ritblat.

The point about Mr Ritblat's judgements on the British industrial property scene is that they come from a position of strength. Overall, the asset value of British Land rose by 9 per cent, with no one worrying too much about the market value of Plantation House, still worth about a fifth of the total portfolio. Hence Mr Ritblat is on the side of the angels.

The same cannot be said with such certainty of industrial property specialists like Brixton Estates.

By talking down his portfolio, is Mr Ritblat paradoxically paving the way for more aggressive activity in the sector?

LRC International

LRC International did a good job of talking the more optimistic brokers' forecasts down in the run-up to yesterday's preliminary announcement.

ment. Pretax profits of £18.8 million, up from £15 million, were, therefore, much in line with revised expectations.

Restraint remains, then, the watchword when assessing the company's growth prospects. For, while it boasts an impressive and consistent record of improving margins and returns on sales and capital employed, LRC has still to demonstrate conclusively that it deserves anything other than its lowly sector rating.

The purchase of Royal Worcester Spools last October, however, gives LRC an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that it can turn its undoubted marketing expertise in traditional products to other areas. The six-month contribution from Royal Worcester was £1.3 million at the operating level, but it is still too early to assess how the new division is being managed.

While Royal Worcester will play an important part in the company's future development, it would be wrong to ignore the organic growth. Given the undoubted maturity of some contraband sheath and household glove makers, LRC still manages to maintain solid growth.

It has survived yet another attempt to break its monopoly of the British contraband sheath market and is now preparing to make a thrust to expand European markets, in particular Germany and, don't tell the Pope, Italy.

The industrial holdings division continues to perform well. The photographic business picked up further market share and the introduction of mini photo processing laboratories into two Boots stores offers scope for further growth.

There are murmurings in the City that LRC might be ready for a re-rating. This may still be a little premature, but must certainly come when the real impact of the new fertility test which is being developed is appreciated.

The product could be available over the counter in two years and it will make a significant contribution to

APPOINTMENTS

Aberdeen Exhibition Conference Centre: Mr John Sorrie has been appointed chairman. Other board members are: Mr David C. Stott (managing director), Mr Henry W. Auchincloss, Mr Roderick M. Kinnear, Mr John C. Liddell, Mr Christopher P. L. Marke and Mr Harry J. Sim.

The Wrigley Company: Mr Philip Hamilton has been named as deputy managing director.

Davy Engineering Industries: Mr Patrick McTighe has been made chairman.

Norwich Building Society: Mr Peter Skarman has joined the board.

Sun Life Investment Management Services: Mr Richard Zamboni has been appointed chairman; Mr John Webster, managing director; Mr Alan Frost and Mr David Baker, executive directors; and Mr Peter Bainton and Mr John Nicholls, directors.

Clark Whitehall Consultants: Mr Cyril Williams has been made a director.

Siemens Dr Hans Vögelings and Dr Gerhard Kuehne have been appointed to the board as non-executive directors and Mr Bernd J. Meloch and Mr Hans-Martin Steinhilber have been promoted to full executive directors.

Brixton Estate: Sir John Cuckney and Sir Richard Baker

Base Lending Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	12½%
Adam & Company	12½%
Barclays	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank	12½%
Consolidated Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Midland Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
TSB	12½%
Williams & Glyn's	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%

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Substantial increase in profits and earnings per share... profits before tax at £27.7m, 46% greater than previous year on sales up 34% at £168m... between 1981 and 1985 earnings per share increased from 16.4p to 44.3p, a compound growth of 28.2%... whilst dividends have increased by 13.8%, approximately double the rate of increase in the retail price index.

Results

	1985	1984
Turnover	£m 168.5	£m 125.8
Operating profit	31.9	21.4
Interest	(4.2)	(2.5)
Profit before tax	27.7	18.9
Dividends per share	11.0p	9.15p

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Simpson finds pay-day elusive



A champagne company has just leapt into athletics with a £50,000 reward for a British world record-breaker who does it in the United Kingdom. These are the rigors of the times, my boys: no one even blink when he reads the story. One rather associates champagne and lovely cheques with athletics these days.

If anyone manages to claim the 50 grand, chances are we shall know all about him, or her, already. It will be one of the handful of stars. And while one revels in the successes of the mighty, there remains a gentle wondering as to whether both athletics and athletics might not get spilt by so much conspicuous consumption. So much lovely jelly laid down in so many trust funds, like cellars full of champagne. Can athletes remain unaffected by such hefty rewards?

"I can't wait to get affected by too much money," said Judy Simpson, one of the few athletes who has a chance to get affected. "I wish I had a chance to get affected." I wish now that I had bought her champagne rather than cream scones.

Just Simpson is a sparkling lady, just famous for heads and for the heptathlon. She is up to her neck in serious training again after completing the finals for her degree. She said that exams made her far more nervous than Olympic races, and that the past four years' work for her degree was essential for her financial future. Her trust fund notwithstanding, not her cellars with champagne.

"In fact I couldn't have done a thing without the Sports Aid Foundation," she said. "There was no help coming from anywhere else. The thing is that people who think it is unnecessary to give athletes financial backing, since there is so much money in athletics. They think athletes get their cash in quarter-million pound jumps, and so no one wants their measly 50 quid."

"But I can count on the fingers of my hands the number of athletes who make that kind of money... other are 300 of us who need help if we are to carry on competing. The huge revenue the top people earn keeps the rest of us in the money."

The point is that Mrs Simpson is a second-rater in world terms. There is also the point that to be a second-rater in such terms is a fairly tremendous achievement. The British heptathlon champion is among the finest in the world, even though she is not the finest. Which doesn't prevent her from trying to be exactly that.

Big names thrive

"People don't want to help the athletes who are not really big names. The money available for the top athletes has had an adverse effect on lesser people. They have to scramble. The option of asking small businesses for support is closed - businesses don't want to be associated with athletics."

"There is no problem about restrictions. You are allowed to do most things now. The thing is that someone has to ask you first. And you know who they are going to ask, don't you?"

I must make it quite clear that Mrs Simpson was not indulging in a good old whinge over the cream scones. She is

Argentinian returns for Diamonds

Henley Royal Regatta (July 4-7) has attracted a record entry of 348 crews including overseas entries from 12 countries. The entry with a few exceptions is one of quality rather than quantity, which hits at some exciting and close racing in most events.

The most intriguing race is in the Diamond Challenge Sculls, where the 1983 champion, Steve Redgrave, will be competing. Redgrave, who won the 1983 title, will be competing in the double sculls and is expected to win. The 1984 champion, Steve Redgrave, will be competing in the double sculls and is expected to win.

allowance drops from 220 to 195 cc. With their new system of electronic fuel management, Ford hope to free their drivers from these problems and allow them to concentrate on racing.

Although American-owned, the Beatrice team is being operated out of premises near Heathrow by Teddy Mayer and Tyler Alexander, who were with McLaren when they won the world championship in 1974 with Emerson Fittipaldi and in 1976 with James Hunt. No second driver has yet been announced for next year's two-car team.

Brands new date

The 1985 Formula One Shell Oils Grand Prix of Europe, recently awarded to Brands Hatch, will now take place on September 29. It has been put back a week at FISA's request, to enable the postponed Grand Prix of Belgium to be staged on September 15.

Showdown year for Coe and company



The revolutionary feature which most marks tonight's match in Birmingham between England and the United States is not that the top British athletes are getting paid for an international fixture but that top British athletes are prepared to meet in the same race, Sebastian Coe and Steve Cram contest the 800 metres, from which Peter Elliott, another top Briton at the distance, has had to withdraw through injury.

"Bit of a culture revolution," murmured Coe. Cram was even more dismissive of fears that the top middle-distance runners would continue to avoid one another as they have done over the past half dozen seasons. "We'll probably face each other quite a lot this season with there being no major championships," he said.

The Britons are happily taking the first steps towards curing the malaise that they introduced in international athletics in 1978, through their record-breaking years. Coe and Steve Cram met in only two Olympic Games. The reason, inwardly the end of the "dinosaur" era, was the falling market value for the loser. Yet the prize they may have paid is failing to put the mile record out of reach of their successors.

One of their successors, Joachim Cruz, of Brazil, the Olympic 800 metres champion, said last month: "I hope these people aren't going to avoid each other any more. On the contrary, Coe says he will be delighted to meet Cruz in the AAA 800 metres next month."

A more relaxed attitude from Coe began his big races before he left to return to the Olympic 1,500 metres title, which he had won in a state of crisis in Moscow in 1980. That attitude continues. Coe also has the advantage tonight of the fastest 800 metres time in the world this year, 1 min 44 sec. Cram admitted yesterday: "If it's the same son of a bitch I'll be struggling. It's quicker than when I've had to deal with for a long time."

Cram may be playing canny after his recent injury but he deserves the kudos for being the first British champion to win a world title in his peers. After his world championship victory in 1983 he accepted a race against Oveti and beat him.

Oveti also competes this evening. In the 3,000 metres, where Tim Hutchings replaced the injured Elliott in the Eamon Martin, Chris McGeorge replaces the injured Elliott in the 800 metres. Jones, who took the fastest mile in the world over two laps, would be in the US team, but not materialized.

But the disappointment at the lack of top American names may not be entirely justified. The British hurdlers, including the US team, still look to be too good for their English opponents.

Christina Boxer, the UK national 1,500 metres record holder, will line up alongside Zola Budd, the world junior 1,500 metres record holder, at a meeting between British and American athletes at Gateshead tomorrow week.

Paragon lives up to her name again

At last the small, but impressive fleet of multi-bulls to the Seashore series, organized by the Royal London Yacht Club, enjoyed a spanking breeze when they raced at Cavay, yesterday. Reefed mainsails and narrow headsails were adopted by most of the entries by the end of the three-hour race, though Paragon (Michael Whipp) was obliged to change headsails soon after the start.

At that time the breeze was fairly light and she was using a larger, lighter, sail. The race was only a few minutes old when a scam in the sail appeared in split and it had to be hurriedly changed. The delay cost her the lead she had deserved, after a superb start, aided, in some extent, by the reluctance of her rivals to get on the starting line. Apriori (Tony Bullimore) was late, and Red Star Night Star (Don Wood) was stationary, facing the wrong way.

Australians call a truce

From a Special Correspondent, Fremantle

Bad feeling and the public trading of insults between the rival Australian syndicates hoping to supply the 12 metre yacht that defends the America's Cup next year has temporarily ceased following a "peace conference" held on Wednesday at the Royal Perth Yacht Club. All parties were represented and agreement was reached in sail against no other for training purposes next summer.

Alan Bond's syndicate had declined to race against the Task Force 87 boat, Kookaburra, and they in turn had been refusing to train against the Eastern States syndicate of Syd Fischer and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

Australian commentators have been remarking that such behaviour boded ill for a successful defence of the cup. Sponsors and potential sponsors are similarly unimpressed.

The RPYC will run a series of trial starts and short races in Fremantle in November. All four major syndicates have buried the hatchet and agreement to participate, I understand, although the club declines to confirm it officially. With the new short-legged course, starts are particularly vital.

Additionally, the Royal Perth has given formal recognition to the four main syndicates for the first time. These are: Bond's Australia II (which won the cup at Newport); South Australia, based in Adelaide; Task Force 87, based in Perth; and Fischer's Sydney-based syndicate. The latter is understood to have found a major new financial sponsor, probably a television station, in the past few days, and will be building new yachts.

Originally, eight Australian syndicates indicated that they wished to compete to defend the cup, but the gates are now closed.

"We don't believe we are actually excluding anyone," Dr Stan Reid, the chairman of the Royal Perth America's Cup committee, said, after the meeting. "If they haven't got a 12 metre boat, finance and crew by now I don't think it would be possible for them to make the start."

Top Britons still in contention

England's joint top-ranked players Steve Buxley and Nick Yates remain in the top ten at the half way point of the 18-tournament professional world grand prix table, even though neither reached the quarter-finals in the World Championships in Calgary last week (Richard Eaton writes).

The European champion Helen Troles, England's only singles quarter-finalist, remains in fifth position in the women's list, which has a new leader, the Chinese player Han Aiping, who became the world champion by beating her compatriot Wu Jialing in the world final.

Rankings: 1. S. Buxley, 2. N. Yates, 3. J. Higgins, 4. F. Sturges, 5. A. Hurrell, 6. A. Hurrell, 7. A. Hurrell, 8. A. Hurrell, 9. A. Hurrell, 10. A. Hurrell.

Conspiracy to supply meter fraud device Limit of offence under Immigration Act

Regina v Hollinshead
Regina v Dettlaff
Regina v Griffiths (Kenneth)
Before Lord Fraser, Lord Diplock, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge, Lord Hailsham and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook. (Speeches 20 June 20)

Persons who agreed to manufacture and sell and thus put into circulation dishonest devices, the sole purpose of which was to cause loss, were liable to be convicted of common-law conspiracy to defraud.

The House of Lords unanimously so held when allowing an appeal by the Crown from a reserved decision of the Court of Appeal (7 June 1985) (1985) 2 W.L.R. 761. Lord Justice Stephen Brown, Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Giddens had quashed the convictions of Peter Gordon Hollinshead, Stefan Dettlaff and Kenneth Griffiths at Bristol Crown Court (Judge Fallon, QC).

On a ruling at the close of the prosecution's evidence they had changed their pleas to guilty on a count charging that, on a day or days unknown between July 1 and September 19, 1983 they "conspired together to defraud one or more electricity boards by the manufacture and/or sale of devices to alter electricity meters."

The defendant Hollinshead and Dettlaff had each sentenced to nine months imprisonment, of which three months were suspended, and Griffiths to 18 months, of which six months were suspended. The restoration of the convictions by the House of Lords did not result in restoration of imprisonment because the Court of Appeal had refused to order, under section 37(2) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, detention or release only on bail pending appeal to the House.

Mr James W. Black, QC and Mr Adrian Palmer, QC for the Crown; John Spokes, QC and Mr Ian Glen for the defendants.

LORD ROSKILL, with whose speech Lord Fraser, Lord Diplock and Lord Bridge agreed and with whom Lord Brandon also agreed, said that the indictment contained two relevant counts.

Count 1 was a statutory conspiracy, contrary to section 1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977, the particulars being that the defendants "on the relevant dates conspired together to aid, abet, counsel or procure persons unknown by name to defraud electricity boards by the manufacture and with intent to make a permanent default in whole or in part on an existing liability dishonestly to induce one or more of the electricity boards to wait for or to forgo payment for electricity supply."

Count 2 was the common-law conspiracy.

The essential facts were simple. Devices known as "black boxes" were manufactured in various parts of the country. The effect of using such a box was to cause an electricity meter's unit counter to move in reverse and make it appear that less electricity had been consumed than was the case.

It was an accepted fact that there was no other useful purpose to which such a black box could be put. The evidence clearly established an agreement between the defendants to make and sell black boxes. They well knew that the boxes had only one use, a dishonest use, albeit a dishonest use by persons other than the defendants, for the purpose of defrauding electricity boards.

The trial judge overruled submissions and held that the facts were properly charged as a common-law conspiracy to defraud. The defendants thereupon changed their pleas to guilty to that count and Count 1 was ordered to be left on the file.

The trial judge granted a certificate to facilitate an appeal and released the defendants on bail.

The Court of Appeal in quashing the convictions on December 21, 1984 gave as their reasons that the convictions on the common-law conspiracy count could not be sustained because the facts were properly charged as a charge of conspiracy to defraud and that convictions on the statutory conspiracy count could not be sustained because it did not disclose an offence - conspiracy to aid and abet an offence not being within section 1(1) of the 1977 Act.

Two points of law were certified as being of general public importance.

(1) If parties agree (a) to manufacture devices which only use is fraudulently to alter electricity meters and (b) to sell those devices to a person who intends merely to use them, does that agreement constitute a common-law conspiracy to defraud?

(2) Alternatively, is such an agreement properly charged as a statutory conspiracy to aid, abet, counsel or procure persons unknown by name to defraud electricity boards with intent to make a permanent default in whole or in part on an existing liability dishonestly to induce one or more of the electricity boards to wait for or to forgo payment for electricity supply?

Common sense suggested that what the defendants agreed to do was to defraud electricity boards and that no one save perhaps the most enthusiastic lawyer would willingly hold otherwise.

Since the defendants were properly convicted of the common-law conspiracy to defraud, they could not properly have been convicted of the statutory conspiracy as charged.

Whether or not Count 1 was sustainable in law should be treated as open for consideration *de novo* in a future case in which the question arose, since much might depend on particular facts.

The defendants, unfortunately, could view the restoration with little indifference because of the refusal by the Court of Appeal to make an appropriate order under section 37(2) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968. The Court of Appeal, in its decision, was divided 2-1. Lord Justice Brown and Mr Justice Hodgson, who were in the majority, were in favour of the restoration of the convictions. Lord Justice Giddens, who was in the minority, was in favour of the restoration of the convictions.

The House of Lords, in its decision, was divided 3-2. Lord Fraser, Lord Diplock and Lord Bridge, who were in the majority, were in favour of the restoration of the convictions. Lord Hailsham and Lord Brandon, who were in the minority, were in favour of the restoration of the convictions.

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Regina v Clarke (Edith)
Before Lord Scarman, Lord Diplock, Lord Bridge, Lord Hailsham, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman. (Speeches 20 June 20)

An offence under section 26 (1) (c) of the Immigration Act 1971 was committed only if the relevant falsehood was addressed to a person in the course of a specific procedure under the Act in which that person's statutory function involved the obtaining or receipt of information relevant to the performance of that function and not if it was merely made to a police officer having reason to suspect the commission of an offence under the Act and asking questions by way of investigation.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the Crown from a reserved decision of the Court of Appeal (11 June 1984) (1984) 2 W.L.R. 873. The Crown Court (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough) on December 11, 1984, dismissed an appeal by the prosecuting police officer by case stated from Inner London Crown Court (Judge Shadwell, QC and two Justices). The Crown Court had allowed an appeal by the respondent, Mrs Edith Clarke, on a submission by her of no case to answer against her conviction under section 26 (1) (c) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Section 26 (1) provides: "A person shall be guilty of an offence if he knowingly makes a false statement or gives false information to a police officer or other person lawfully acting in the execution of this Act, with intent to obstruct or hinder the execution of this Act."

LORD BRIDGE said that the case stated assumed that the prosecuting police officer, in the course of investigating another matter, had reason to suspect that Mrs Clarke was unlawfully in this country. In answer to questions by him, Mrs Clarke had stated that she was born in this country, was a British subject and held a British passport. As Mrs Clarke admitted later all those answers were to his knowledge false.

The Crown raised its argument boldly on the submission that any constable who had reason to suspect the commission of any offence under the Act and was asking questions by way of investigation of the suspected offence was within the words of section 26 (1) (c) "other person lawfully acting in the execution of this Act."

If the submission was well founded it created a whole new area of criminal liability, peculiar to the field of immigration law, the scope of which had aptly been described by Lord Scarman during argument as breath-taking.

It meant that any citizen being questioned by a constable or immigration officer about a suspected immigration offence, whether that citizen was himself the suspect or not, would, if he chose to answer, which he was under no compulsion to do, depart from the truth at peril of being convicted of a form of statutory perjury, being imprisoned for up to six months and, if he was not a British subject, deported. His Lordship should require the most compelling language to drive him to the conclusion that the House had intended to create such a wide-ranging new offence.

The natural meaning of the words "acting in the execution of this Act" was "acting in the performance of some duty or the exercise of some power imposed or conferred by this Act." But no duty or power to investigate criminal offences committed in contravention of the Act was imposed or conferred by the Act itself because none was needed.

The words "acting in the execution of this Act" were amply sufficient to impose a duty on constables and to confer power on all citizens to investigate any crime, whether statutory or otherwise, that they suspected to have been committed.

The argument for the appellant would require that one should read the words "acting in the execution of this Act" as equivalent to "acting in the performance of some duty or the exercise of some power imposed or conferred by this Act." Even if the words were capable of that meaning, which his Lordship doubted, it would be a wholly illegitimate meaning to attribute to an ambiguous phrase in a penal statute, having regard to the extent to which that would broaden the ambit of its operation.

The conclusion that his Lordship reached was that an offence under section 26 (1) (c) was committed if and only if the relevant falsehood was addressed to a person in the course of a specific procedure under the Act in which that person's statutory function involved the obtaining or receipt of information relevant to the performance of that function.

That limited construction seemed to him not only to be entirely consistent with the policy and intention of the Act but also to give full effect to the language of section 26 (1) (c) itself, in particular by allowing ample substance and content to the phrases "other person lawfully acting in the execution of this Act" and "other person."

"Other persons" included, of course, the several other persons besides immigration officers, for example medical inspectors, with functions to perform under Schedule 2 itself that would, or might, involve the obtaining of relevant information.

The procedures outside Schedule 2 embraced by the words "other person" involving the function of receiving relevant information to which section 26 (1) (c) would apply, must include consideration of applications to vary the terms of leave to remain in the United Kingdom by officers of the immigration department of the Home Office under section 4(1); receipt of information required by regulations made under section 4(3); receipt of information required by regulations made under section 4(4); and last but by no means least, all the appellate procedures under Part II of the Act.

R v GUY (1977) 1 W.L.R. 78 had been rightly cited by Lord Brightman (unreported, September 22, 1980, CA) should be overruled as wrongly decided.

LORD BRIGHTMAN said that in effect, as it seemed to him, the Crown sought to construe the phrase "lawfully acting in the execution of this Act" as meaning "lawfully acting to further the purposes of the Act." The respondent sought to construe it as meaning "lawfully acting in the execution of this Act."

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Evidence for extradition committal
Regina v United States Government and Another, Ex parte Blair
Where a defendant in extradition proceedings sought a writ of habeas corpus on the ground that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate had committed him into custody pending extradition, the House of Lords held that there was sufficient evidence to commit him into custody upon the material charges.

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Aid plan has cost Britain £987m

By Henry Stanhope

Twenty-one of the world's poorest countries have had their aid debts to Britain wiped out under the Retrospective Terms Adjustment (RTA) programme begun by the previous Government seven years ago.

The programme, which has converted loans into grants for those countries struggling to pay, has so far cost Britain £987 million, or between £50 million and £60 million a year until about the end of the century, according to official figures.

Seventeen of them were included when the scheme was introduced in 1978 after a resolution by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Others have been added since as their per capita GNP has slipped below the RTA qualification mark of £300. The latest were Ghana and Ethiopia last year and as many as 13 of the 21 are in Africa. Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said in a Commons debate last week.

Ghana has aid debts totalling £51 million and Ethiopia £2.6 million when they qualified for RTA last year. Ghana qualified by virtue of its worsening economic plight - and Ethiopia because of improved relations with Britain. Ethiopia's record on human rights had previously been seen as a barrier.

It also means that, of the 50 poorest nations in the world, only six now have aid debts owing to Britain.

The others are Vietnam, Liberia, Cambodia, Laos and South Yemen which have small long-standing aid debts.

When British delegates travel to Geneva in three months' time for the latest review conference held by UNCTAD on help for the world's "least developed" countries, they should find that, in terms of RTA anyway, Britain is near the top of the league.

Power boat challenges Blue Riband

From Colin Hughes Guernsey

Hopping over by sea from Southampton to Guernsey for lunch would be impossible for any ordinary boat. For the Virgin Atlantic Challenger it was a mere morning jaunt yesterday to reach the Channel Islands in two and a half hours at an average of 46 knots.

The world's largest power boat, a sleek 65ft catamaran which will attempt next month to break the speed record for crossing the Atlantic and reclaim the Blue Riband trophy for Britain after 33 years in American hands, makes a thrilling ride.

Out on the Solent Mr Ted Tolman, the boat's skipper and five times British Class 1 powerboat champion, opened the two 2,000-horsepower turbocharged diesel engines to full throttle, burning 140 gallons an hour.

Rising on its twin hull the boat churned out sprays of spray three times its length, whirling out the view of the cabin and creating a few startled faces among yachtsmen. Out on deck, movement was impossible without clutching rails for support as the wind whipped by at storm force.

Inside, the cabin looked more like the bridge on the Starship Enterprise. The orange-suited crew sat in padded, high-backed seats. In front of them, an impressive array of technology provided electronic navigation, computer gauges for the engines, and even a ship-to-shore telex link.

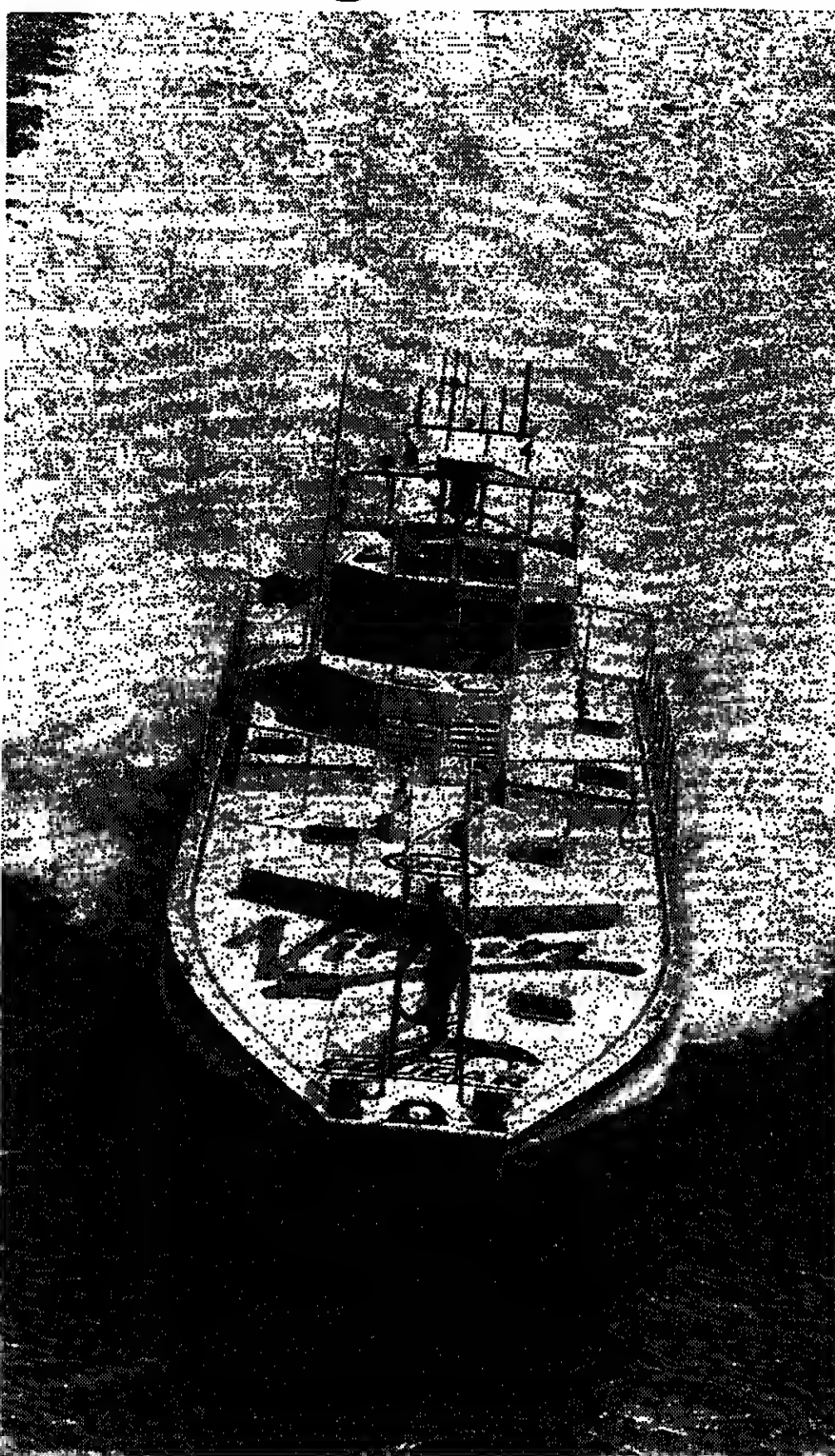
The nine men who will sail the Challenger from New York on July 19, assuming good weather, must wear headsets to communicate over the engines' din and constant vibration as the hulls slice through choppy seas.

At such a pace the booming and scudding of the boat as it strikes the Atlantic swell over a three-day voyage will cause the crew their greatest stress.

Challenger will refuel her 3,000-gallon tanks three times from vessels alongside, off Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and in mid-Atlantic.

The whole project has cost £2.5 million. Mr Richard Branson, owner of Virgin, bought the boat and is acting as a fire-paying passenger.

Mr Tolman, whose company, Congar Marine, built the boat, hopes to knock 15 hours off the three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes record, from New York to the Scilly Isles.



The Virgin Atlantic Challenger at speed in the Solent yesterday (Photograph by Harry Kerr)

Hostages at chaotic press conference

Continued from page 1

that I have personally met with today to verify their condition and their general well-being."

Amid a growing din from photographers standing on the table in front of him, Mr Conwell tried to shout above the noise. "In addition to myself, there is the Reverend Thomas J. Delahanty. Here he interrupted himself to shout to the press: "Please, gentlemen, please be quiet and act like gentlemen. Again I repeat, the Reverend Thomas..." here his voice was again drowned out, and Mr Handan stood up and shouted sarcastically that the press had behaved "so kindly" at which point gunmen began beating journalists nearest the door as they tried to film the hostages leaving.

It was a preposterous spectacle but also, perhaps, a slightly amusing one for both journalists and militiamen. While many reporters urged their colleagues to remain silent, others were pushing and shouting, especially photographers from France. And while one gunman tried to restrain his militiamen, others went berserk in trying to beat those Western correspondents nearest to them.

It certainly elicited far too little information from the five men who are at the centre of an international crisis involving America, Israel, Greece and, of course, Lebanon.

It was typical that when the table was first laid, with 39 chairs set, apparently for all the hostages, and cakes and water placed upon it, airport security guards, air traffic controllers and even the airport's Lebanese Deputy Director turned up to watch what they believed would be - and what was intended to be - a television spectacular. But it went badly wrong.

Mr Berri earlier had said that he had accepted an offer by the Swiss Foreign Minister to use Switzerland as a location to exchange the 40 or so passengers from the hijacked TWA jet in Beirut with the 764 Lebanese Shia Muslims held without trial in an Israeli prison camp. While Mr Berri's statement appeared promising, there was no indication that the Swiss had secured either American or Israeli agreement to the plan.

Linda Christmas in the Commons

Squeezing a tedious day for humour

It was a busy day: Thursday can be like that. There were questions to the Minister of Agriculture and his team on this and that, from English strawberries being squashed by competition from abroad and milk production being soured by EEC quotas; and questions to the Prime Minister on the Japanese continuing to squeeze the trade of other nations.

Indeed it seemed that the only things that were not being squashed, soured or squeezed were the crime figures and the tonnage of drugs seeping into the country.

It was a distasteful catalogue for the squeamish and became more so when the Leader of the House announced that the business for next week would include yet another EEC debate (it was the subject of yesterday's main debate as well). By that time, squeamish or not, members had realized that being busy can be dull and at being serious can be tedious. Where was the heat and the humour?

Mr Donald Dixon, the member for Jarrow decided to generate a little of both, and he did so by accusing the Speaker of bias. He suggested that during Prime Minister's question time, the Tories were favoured.

The Speaker, a man known for his fairness, looked wounded through and through, from the toe of his shiny buckled shoes to the tip of his bearded head which he shook gracefully to show that he did not accept the accusation while he graciously listened to complaints from the disaffected.

In between, he tried to explain that he had not changed the policy he adopted when he became Speaker two years ago, and that it had to be borne in mind that there were more Tories in the House and that, in any event, Mr Kinnoch, got the lion's share of the Opposition's chance to question the Prime Minister.

Mr Peter Shore did not like this at all; the Speaker seemed to be setting a precedent by saying that members were called to speak according to

the distribution of seats and that Mr Kinnoch's habit - a privilege granted to him by tradition - of putting three questions, three lengthy questions - meant that other Opposition backbenchers were being penalized.

Strawberries were not the only precious fruits being squeezed, not milk the only product going sour. The accusations continued until Mr Robert Maxwell-Hyslop suggested that it might be a good idea if Opposition backbenchers took the matter up privately with Mr Kinnoch and did not vent their spleen on the Speaker under Points of Order. The Speaker, in turn, agreed to reflect on what had been said, and in particular on what he had said.

So much for the heat but the House can never have enough humour. And it was suggested that since Prime Minister's question time generates so much bickering, perhaps it might be a good idea if next Tuesday and Thursday he didn't bother to show up at all.

She could go to Brecon instead and discover what that electorate thought of her instead of coming to the House to discover what members thought of her.

There was also some muttering about members arming themselves with portable television sets to relieve the tedium by following the Test match, but it was not clear whether the reception was good enough to promote such a pastime. Nor was it clear that such a move would put an end to the bickering, or that an end to bickering was something to be desired. Frictions, members, squashed, squeezed, soured are more popular than sombre statements.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer provided the latter as he painstakingly tried to explain what on earth had been going on between a city bullion bank called Johnson Matthey and the Bank of England and attempted to soothe the now silent House by announcing measures to ensure that the sorry episode would not be repeated.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibition
Drawings, paintings, sculpture and ceramic sculpture by 75 gallery artists; Colin Jellicoe Gallery, 82 Portland St, Manchester; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 1 to 5 (ends Sept 14).

Exhibitions in progress
Poster and fabric designs, paintings and drawings by Betty Finney, and drawings by Helen Cooke; The Dorset County Museum, Dorchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends June 29).

British Art Show; Art Gallery, Southampton; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 30).

Andrew Carnegie; National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Sept 27).

Alchemical Windows; platinum and silver photographs by Pradip Malde; Stills Gallery, 105 High St, Edinburgh; Tues to Sat 12.30 to 6 (ends July 6).

Personal Choice: a celebration of 20th century photography; City Museum and Art Gallery, Broad St, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Weds 10.30 to 8 (ends July 14).

Contemporary Cotswold artists; The Cross Three Gallery, Fildes, Lechlade, Glos; Tues to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.30 (ends Sept 28).

18th and 19th century clocks made in Llanwrst in Gwynedd; Grosvenor Museum, 27 Grosvenor St, Chester; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends July 15).

Tomorrow's Yesterdays; Castle Museum, Colchester, Essex; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Sept 8).

Physical Features; Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 30).

London's Pictures: A selection of paintings from the collection of the Corporation of London; Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge St, Bath; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5 (ends June 29).

Local Colour: Paintings by Dave Bullock, Tom Titherington, Peter Oakley and Matt Black; Atkinson Art Gallery, Lord St, Southport; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1 (ends July 20).

Train Spotting: Images of the Railway in art and Railways around Nottingham; Castle Museum, Nottingham; Mon to Sun 10 to 4.45 (ends Aug 11).

Paintings and prints by Michael Griffiths; Andover Museum, Church Close, Andover; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends June 29).

Flowerprints: Screenprints by Derrick Graves; Allen Gallery, Church St, Alton; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends June 29).

Food prices

Home grown strawberries, delayed by the cold weather, should be in the shops by early next week. New late fruiting varieties are expected to prolong the season beyond July, and reasonably good raspberries and cherry crops are also anticipated. Continental strawberries are available at between 80p and £1.50 a lb. English gooseberries are 50-60p a lb, and Spanish, Italian and French peaches 10-25p each, depending on size. Best buys are South African, Chilean and New Zealand apples at 32-48p a lb, avocados 45-70p each, kiwifruit 35-50p each, gala melons 60p to £1 each and new season oranges 6-25p each.

English new potatoes are now excellent value at 10-12p a lb, as are Jersey Royals, though a little dearer. English Highcabbages 22-30p a lb and Primo 40-49p are recommended, as are early French carrots 25-30p and courgettes 40-60p. Salad ingredients are cheap and plentiful, including super quality tomatoes 99p-£1.55, round lettuce 16-25p each, iceberg 50-80p, Webster 30-40p radishes 25-35p a bunch, cucumbers 25-30p each, celery 35-55p a head and watercress 28-35p a bunch.

Home produced lamb prices continue to fall, whole leg ranges from £1.59-£2.08 a lb, whole shoulder 99p-£1.38 and loin chops £1.80-£2.49. New Zealand equivalents are at £1.59-£1.59, shoulder £1.99 and loin chops £1.28-£1.68. Beef prices are mostly unchanged; topside and silverside £1.90-£2.30 a lb, fore-rib on the bone £1.20-£1.72, rump steak £2.64-£3.25 and mince 99p-£1.55. Some cuts of pork may be slightly cheaper; whole leg 86p-£1.20 a pound; loin chops £1.28-£1.52 and boneless shoulder 98p-£1.38.

Good buys: Sainsbury has big reductions on all cuts of meat and poultry. English lamb; whole leg £1.34 a lb, whole shoulder 78p and loin chops £1.70. Tesco topside and silverside £1.72 a lb and Grade A large chicken 59p. Marks and Spencer chicken thighs and drumsticks in breadcrumbs £1.09 a lb for family pack; Bejam chicken 49p a lb; Sainsbury leg of lamb £1.64 a lb, shoulder 59p, Marks and Spencer Fine Fare pork chops £1.28 a lb; Debenhams have barbecue packs suitable for two to ten persons.

Supplies of fish have improved this week and there is a wide selection available for the weekend. Prices include cod fillet, £1.80-£1.90; skate and hake £1.60-£1.70.

Roads

The Midlands: A34 Roadworks on Birmingham to Oxford Rd at Shipston on Stour, in Church St. M6: Southbound carriageway closed between junctions 3 (A444 Coventry) and 4 (M42 Birmingham E); two way traffic on northbound carriageway; northbound Corley services now closed. M1: Contraflow between junction 16 (Northampton) and 17 (M43 Coventry S).

Wales and West: M4 Preparatory work for contraflow between junction 24 (Newport) and 22 (Chepstow) Gwent, affecting eastbound carriageway; eastbound access at junction 24 now open.

The North: M6: Contraflow between junction 20 (M56 N Wales) and junction 21 (A57 Warrington) Cheshire; delays for westbound traffic on M62 from junction 10. M62: Lanes closed on both carriageways between junctions 24 and 25 Huddersfield; resurfacing westbound. A534: Haslingden, E of Crews; temporary traffic lights in use; delays.

Scotland: A9: Periodic halting of traffic at Kiltwanchie, Perthshire, during blasting operations. A95: Road realignment three miles N of Aviemore; temporary lights in use (24 hours). M74: Outside lane of both carriageways closed between junction 4 and just N of junction 5 (Hamilton and Bellshill).

Weather forecast

A complex area of low pressure will move from the W to be centred over the British Isles by the end of the day and its associated troughs of low pressure will cross all but the far NW of Scotland.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central SE, central N, NE England, East Angles, E Midlands, Channel Isles: Rain, heavy in places, drier intervals later; strong SE fresh or strong; max temp 18C (64F).

W Midlands, SW England, Wales: Showers or longer periods of rain, perhaps thunder, some bright intervals; wind S or SW strong to gale decreasing; moderate; max temp 17C (63F).

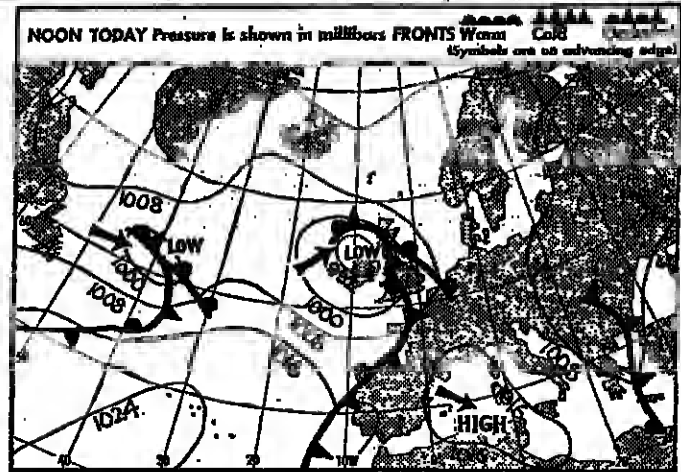
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Showers or longer periods of rain, some bright intervals; wind SE strong with gales in exposed places, becoming variable light; max temp 16C (61F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Angus, NW Scotland: Cloudy, rain, heavy at times, hill fog; wind E or SE fresh or strong; max temp 15C (59F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry, bright intervals; wind SE fresh or strong; max temp 14C (57F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Unsettled; temperatures near or a little below normal.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind SE fresh or strong; occasional rain; visibility moderate; moderate or rough. Straits of Dover, English Channel: E Wind SW strong to gale; rain then showers; visibility moderate; with fog patches at first; sea rough or very rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S or SE strong, occasionally gale; occasional rain; visibility moderate, with fog patches at first; sea rough or very rough.



High tides			
Location	AM	PM	PM
London Bridge	4.02	4.43	4.57
Aberdeen	4.23	4.43	4.57
Avonmouth	4.23	4.43	4.57
Belfast	4.23	4.43	4.57
Bristol	4.23	4.43	4.57
Cardiff	4.23	4.43	4.57
Doverport	4.23	4.43	4.57
Exeter	4.23	4.43	4.57
Falmouth	4.23	4.43	4.57
Glasgow	4.23	4.43	4.57
Harwich	4.23	4.43	4.57
Headland	4.23	4.43	4.57
Leamington	4.23	4.43	4.57
Leith	4.23	4.43	4.57
Liverpool	4.23	4.43	4.57
Lowestoft	4.23	4.43	4.57
Manchester	4.23	4.43	4.57
Marazion	4.23	4.43	4.57
Newquay	4.23	4.43	4.57
Oban	4.23	4.43	4.57
Orkney	4.23	4.43	4.57
Portsmouth	4.23	4.43	4.57
Southampton	4.23	4.43	4.57
Stirling	4.23	4.43	4.57
Tees	4.23	4.43	4.57
Widnes	4.23	4.43	4.57
Wilton-on-Maze	4.23	4.43	4.57

Around Britain			
Location	Sun	Mon	Tue
East Coast	11.2	16.6	11.2
South Coast	12.1	17.5	12.1
London	12.1	17.5	12.1
Lowestoft	12.1	17.5	12.1
Cardiff	12.1	17.5	12.1
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London	12.1	17.5	12.1
Lowestoft	12.1	17.5	12.1
Cardiff	12.1	17.5	12.1
Dumfries	12.1	17.5	12.1
South Coast	12.1	17.5	12.1
London	12.1	17.5	12.1
Lowestoft	12.1	17.5	12.1
Cardiff	12.1	17.5	12.1
Dumfries	12.1	17.5	12.1
South Coast	12.1	17.5	12.1